Chavit backs Ping on Erap 'jueteng' payola

SPORTS / A18
Argentinian Del Potro claims 1st Grand Slam after upsetting Federer

BUSINESS / B1
Remittances rose 9% to $1.49B in July

WORLD / A23
'Ghost' actor Patrick Swayze dies at 57

WORLD / A24
Obama warns Wall Street: Change old ways

By Leoncio Bañin Jr. and Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

CAIDON CITY—DEPUTY NATIONAL Security Adviser Luis "Chavit" Singson yesterday said Sen. Panfilo Lacson's statements implicating deposed President Joseph Estrada in the illegal numbers game "jueteng" vindicated him.

Singson also supported Lacson in his contention that he—Lacson—had refused to accept a P5-million monthly

CHAVIT A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wednesday, September 16, 2009 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 24 / No. 260 P18

Green group raises alarm on toxic flip-flops

By Alcuin Papa

FLIP-FLOP FANS, BEware. You could be walking on phthalates.

The environmental group EcoWaste Coalition warns that some

GREEN A9

Erap bullied me, says Yuchengco

Taipan confirms coercion in PLDT deal

ESTRADA: Used the PNP to harass Yuchengco's son with trumped-up drug charges?

FULL STORY A2

PANGILINAN: Reportedly issued checks to Estrada deposited in the Jose Velarde account.

FULL STORY A2

YUCHENGCO: "Shares were taken from me through sheer intimidation."

FULL STORY A2

CHINESE-FILIPINO TAIpan Alfonso Yuchengco yesterday confirmed that he was threatened and intimidated into selling his stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT), the country's largest telecommunications firm, to the group of businessman Manuel Pangilinan 11 years ago.

His statement last credence to the exposé made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson the other day about the alleged illegal activities committed by Joseph Estrada during his presidency.

Calling Lacson a "liar," Estrada said on Monday that the allegations against him were not true.

An Inquirer source with knowledge of the deal and of the harassment of the Yuchengco family yesterday said that the sale of the Yuchengco shares was "cooked up" by businessman Mark Jimenez and that Estrada was "supposed to get P2 billion" from it.

Estrada called Jimenez a "corporate genius" for pushing the $750-million takeover of PLDT by the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co., described as the "deal of the century." Jimenez has denied reports that he received $80 million in commission.

The source said that when Yuchengco initially refused to sell, agents of a presidential

FIRST A6

SENATE President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada defends his father, former President Joseph Estrada, in a privilege speech on Tuesday, claiming that his accuser Sen. Panfilo Lacson is a "desperate" man who is resorting to "gutter talk, hearsay and fishwives' tales" to save himself.

FULL STORY A2

Jinggoy calls Ping ingrate, desperate

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ELDEST SON OF ousted President Joseph Estrada came to his defense yesterday, saying his accuser Sen. Panfilo Lacson was a "desperate" man who was resorting to "gutter talk, hearsay and fishwives' tales" to save himself.

Delivering his own privilege speech, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada said Lacson was trying to hide behind parliamentary immunity to evade prosecution for the twin murders of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito in 2000.

"Don't throw stones if there is blood on your hands," Estrada said, adding:

"The bottom line here is Sen. Panfilo Ma*yo*ra Lacson, in desperation, is now using the Senate floor to divert attention to former President Joseph Estrada and away from himself in connection with the forthcoming

JINGGOY A6

SEN. Panfilo Lacson raises his hand to interpellate Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, who has just delivered a privilege speech defending his father, former President Joseph Estrada. On Monday, Senator Lacson accused the ousted leader of masterminding "jueteng," smuggling and other criminal activities.

Dacer daughters plan to include Erap in suit

By Norman Bordadora and Tina G. Santos

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE LATE publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer have asked the Department of Justice (DOJ) to give them time to include ousted President Joseph Estrada in an amended complaint in connection with their father's murder in November 2000.

In a petition filed on Monday, lawyer Demetrio Custodio said his clients—Carina Dacer, Sabina Reyes, Emily Hungerford and Amparo Glenace—decided to in-

DACER B1

Hospitals hike fees to recoup losses from cheap medicines

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PRESIDENT OF A GROUP OF PRIvate hospitals yesterday said its members had increased fees to recoup losses from 23 commonly used medicines whose prices were cut in half under the government's drug price regulation scheme.

Dr. Rustico Jimenez, president of the Private Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP), said member hospitals had jacked up prices of their services because of the government's maximum drug retail price (MDRP) policy.

"We are affected. Where are we going to get the money to pay salaries for our nurses, our pharmacists? We went to the DOH (Department of Health) but we were told, 'It's your lookout,'"

HOSPITALS A4

Teodoro touted to be Lakas bet

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE ATTENDANCE AT THE BREAKfast meeting yesterday said it all: Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro Jr. will get the nod as standard-bearer of Lakas-Kampi-CMD in the May elections.

And when the administration party's 64-member selection committee meets today, the declaration of its choice will be a mere formality—that Teodoro, not Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, will be its presidential candidate.

Teodoro, who has just returned from a meeting with top US security and defense officials in Washington, held a breakfast meeting at Pinpinito restaurant in Ayala Technohub in Quezon City.

The diner was packed with 85 congressmen and governors who signed a manifesto endorsing Teodoro.

Speaker Prospero Nograles, the par-

TEODORO A8

SWEET: Gilbert Teodoro gives his wife, Tarlac Rep. "Nikki" Prieto-Teodoro, a kiss after a breakfast meeting in Quezon City.

BRAVE NEW WORLD OF STEM CELLS

Lab nerd tweaks tiny particles to renew life

By Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

(Third of a series)

PHYSICIAN, LAWYER, CHEMIST, molecular biologist, Ph.D. and MBA holder, professor of medicine, cancer director in US hospitals, leading figure in stem cell research, cancer therapy and bioregenerative medicine. Career survivor.

"Before I became a medical doctor," says Dr. Samuel D. Bernal, "I was a hard-core chemist."

As a lab nerd, he poked, cursed and tweaked the smallest particles of life. He then segued into medicine. His specialization: Stem cells in regenerative medicine and oncology, or the treatment of cancers. But he never really left behind the amazing world of molecules.

SPECIAL REPORT

This Filipino-American doctor is a moving force in the regenerative medicine department of The Medical City (TMC) where he holds clinic when he's not abroad.

Whether health practitioners and medical schools realize it or not, molecular is the way to go in the brave new world of medicine. In the smallest and basic particles of the human body—the cells—are contained a wealth of information and

LAB NERD A4

WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: A ridge of high pressure from 0000 is entering our region and Mindanao. The whole country will have partly cloudy to fair skies today, most with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. Only in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Cebu/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Legaspi	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Puerto Princesa	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Iloilo City	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calbayog	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Forecast and source: PAGASA (as of 5 p.m.)

Second FRONTPAGE

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(In season number)

EZ2
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6/42 LUZ/VIS-MIN
1 9 18 22 26 29
P6,682,076.80

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
8 16 17 22 27 29
P47,082,207.60

FAILURE OF ELECTION SCENARIO

PNP shuns takeover of gov't

SC okays CAP rebab

By Norman Bordadora

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ALLOWED the rehabilitation of the College Assurance Plan, Philippines Inc., following its collapse in 2005 that resulted in the unpaid maturities of hundreds of its plan holders.

The tribunal also upheld the decision of the Makati Regional Trial Court in December 2005 ordering the suspension of the payment of all plan holders' claims while the planned rehabilitation proceedings are being conducted.

"[All] assets of a corporation under rehabilitation (receivership) are held in trust for the equal benefit of all creditors to preclude one from obtaining an advantage or preference over another," read the high court's decision, citing its decision in the case of Filipino Shelter Inc. versus Court of Appeals.

"[Once] the corporation, threatened by bankruptcy is taken over by a receiver, all the creditors ought to stand on equal footing and that exi sine of them should be paid ahead of the others," it added.

The high court upheld the decision rendered on the case by Judge Romeo Barza of the Makati RTC, Branch 61, saying the judge did not commit grave abuse of discretion when he ordered to stay the payment of all claims against CAP to pave the way for its rehabilitation.

CAP suffered financial difficulties which prompted plan holders to file a case in April 2005 before the Makati RTC.

CAP, for its part, filed its petition for corporate rehabilitation in September 2005.

By Tarra Quismundo and Christine O. Avendaño

TAKING OVER THE GOVERNMENT IN CASE THE MAY elections fail is not in the books of the Philippine National Police, says Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina.

Security planning, said the PNP spokesperson, is designed to ensure a peaceful and orderly balloting.

Espina explained yesterday that the PNP "would submit to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) to corresponding to emergencies.

"The planning here is for the elections so the premise is there will definitely be elections. All our programs, all our actions, are geared towards that," said Espina in a press briefing yesterday.

Asked about a contingency plan in case of a failure of elections, Espina said: "We don't even talk about it... There's no plan."

"We've had instances before when the Comelec declared failure of elections in certain areas, and they were properly addressed. In no will follow what the Comelec will decide on," said Espina.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile said Monday that the military and police would take over the government in case a power vacuum ensues because of a failure of elections.

But Espina maintained that only the Comelec has the authority to take action in such case.

"In case of a failure of elections, the Comelec is the one that declares and there is process follows after that. That's reserve we await the Comelec," said Espina.

PNP Director General Jesus Verzosa said the police force would remain apolitical while assisting the Comelec.

"The PNP, as your professional organization, will always obey legally constituted authorities and are bound by the constitution. We do not accept the orders of politicians and shall remain loyal to God, country and people," said Verzosa in a statement.

Asked in statement in the same statement, Armed Forces spokesman Lt. Col. Romeo Brawner issued a statement along the same line.

"The AFP will remain professional and loyal to the constitution," he said.

Enrile yesterday said that a law should be passed that would allow Congress to select an interim president in the event of a failure of the May elections and set new balloting.

"But as a matter of contingency, we should pass a law," Enrile told reporters.

Enrile told that Article 7 of the Constitution provides that Congress "may enact a law to deal with contingencies if there are no such officials involved."

"Noting that election day falls on May 10, the Senate president told con.con.already see if there would be failure of elections come June 30 when President Macapagal-Arroyo is mandated to step down.

In that case, he said Congress must elect between May 10 to June 30 "whoever will become the head of government temporarily until a new election is called."

Enrile said Congress can convene between May 10 to June 30 because the body still subsists along with an incumbent president.

Also agreeing that it was "highly improbable" for the polls to fail next year was Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago who stressed that the Comelec always could fall back on manual counting.

"I think it is highly improbable but still I will not object because this is a contingency measure. We can't tell these days," Santiago told reporters.

She said she would not object to a "contingency plan in the form of a succession order in case there is no president by that time."

"Let just have an abundance of caution, to use a legal phrase," Santiago added.

Heed SC ruling, early campaigners warned

By Kristine L. Alave

POLITICIANS INTENDING TO RUN for office in 2010 had better heed the recent Supreme Court decision against premature campaigning involving a local candidate so it could very well be used as a basis for future charges against them, said a Commission on Elections official.

Comelec Spokesperson James Jimenez said Monday, which disqualified a Surigao del Norte mayoral candidate for holding campaign rallies outside the campaign period despite her formal declaration of candidacy, will give more "teeth" to the Comelec ban on partisan campaigns, posters, demonstrations and other activities by politicians planning to run in 2010, said Comelec chief Commissioner Ferdinand Rabasan.

"With this decision, those national and local candidates should be afraid. What they were doing in the past, before the campaign period, are now grounds for charges," Rabasan said.

Bernadita Pereira, the mayor of Sta. Monica, Surigao del Norte, was removed from office after the tribunal deemed her guilty of premature campaigning in 2007.

After filing her certificate of candidacy for the 2007 elections, Pereira held a motorcade to encourage people to support her candidacy. The motorcade was held before the start of the official campaign period.

Rabasan said the SC ruling was a landmark decision as it affirmed that there is such a crime as premature campaigning.

Because of a perceived conflict in the provisions of the Election Automation Law and the Omnibus Election Code on campaign activities, politicians "were able to get away with putting up posters or taking out media advertisements to promote themselves or their candidacies in an election year without necessarily violating election laws."

The Election Automation Law does not have a provision banning campaigning outside the period set by the Comelec.

The Omnibus Election Code, on the other hand, prohibits unlawful election campaigning or any partisan political activity outside the campaign period by any person, whether voter or candidate.

Rabasan said the high court ruling bridged the gap in the interpretation of the two election laws on premature campaigning.

"We learned from this decision that Section 80 of the Omnibus Election Code[is still in effect," he said.

Under the law, the campaign period for national posts starts three months before May 10. The campaign period for local positions is shorter.

CBCP affirms stand vs bloc voting

THE HEAD OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS Conference of the Philippines has reiterated the Church stance against bloc voting by Catholics in the next elections.

"The Church is not in favor of bloc voting like what others do because our citizens should have the freedom to choose their candidates according to their conscience," Jaro archbishop Angel Lagdameo told the Church-run Radio Veritas yesterday.

"Pro-life" groups within the Church which are opposed to the reproductive health bill now being debated in Congress have been calling on Catholics to vote as a bloc to discredit legislators from passing the legislation.

Dona Magsaysay

In the Light of Truth

The Grail Message by Ariel ouspenskaya

"In the Light of Truth", the Grail Message, is a classic work that offers clear and perceptive answers to questions which challenge every human being. Written by a German author between the years 1923 - 1938, it is a collection of 168 essays addressing all spheres of life ranging from God and the Universe to the Laws of Creation. It answers eternal questions such as:

What does it mean to be human ?

What is the purpose of life on Earth ?

What happens to "me" when I die ?

In this context, the author writes: "I wish to fill the gaps which so far have remain unanswered in the souls of men as burning questions, and which never leave any serious thinker in peace."

To perceive the values within the simplicity and unswerving logic of the Grail Message, no specific type of education is required. Age, sex, race and religious background present no barriers, unless they are self-imposed. However, reading the Grail Message requires an open mind and a seeking spirit.

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US assures RP of antiterror aid

By Cynthia D. Balana

WASHINGTON HAS ASSURED MANILA IT will continue to support efforts to crush terrorists who undermine the peace and stability of the Philippines.

The assurance was relayed by US Defense Secretary Robert Gates to visiting Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro during their meeting at the Pentagon last week. In a report to the home office yesterday, the Philippine Embassy in Washington said the two officials were pleased with the progress of the security cooperation between Philippine and US military forces.

The report said the two officials discussed US support of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) in dealing with terrorist groups.

Gates lauded Teodoro for his efforts to institutionalize reforms in the Department of National Defense (DND) and the AFP.

Teodoro accepted the need to focus efforts on force buildup for internal security operations. He said there was a need to enhance the Navy's Coast Watch South (CWS), in partnership with the US and other countries, in order to protect the Sulu and Celebes Seas' constitutional maritime threats and illegal activities.

He noted the significance of US assistance to local infrastructure projects like the construction of school facilities, water systems and farm-to-market roads in areas prone to conflict in Mindanao.

Both Gates and Teodoro agreed to explore mutual strategic security interests in areas considered nontraditional security threats such as Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR), climate change, drug trafficking, and maritime security.

Gates commended Teodoro for the Philippines' successful hosting of the first Asean Regional Forum on Voluntary Disaster Response (ARF-VDR) last May, a humanitarian assistance exercise held in Clark Air Base and Manila, and participated in by 20 countries.

Next year, the DND/AFP will host a multilateral exercise for HADR known as "Sagip."

GMA off to Turkey, UK, Saudi

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO WAS TO leave before dawn today for Turkey to press anew for the country's bid for an observer status in the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Ms Arroyo is flying to Turkey, the first leg of her three-day nation-wing, for the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Central Asian country and the Philippines.

She will meet with Dr Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu, OIC secretary general, "to press forward with the country's petition to be granted observer status," Malacañang spokesperson Gary Olivar said.

"This will be a major step toward the success of our peace process in Mindanao because it will allow us to finally speak for all the Muslims within our national territory," he said in a briefing.

During her two-day visit, Ms Arroyo will also have an audience with Turkish President Abdullah Gul, whom she will thank him for his support for the Philippines' bid for an observer status, and pay homage at the resting place of the estimated 4,000 Filipino seafarers in Turkey.

From Turkey, she will fly to London to address a conference, dubbed the "The Emerging Markets Summit," hosted by The Economist, and then Saudi Arabia for an audience with King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud and the Filipino communities.

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- William D. Torres, Ph.D.
Consultant
(Former BFAD Director)

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, September 16, 2009
24th Week in Ordinary Time
Cornelius and Cyprian

1st Reading: 1 Tim 3:14-16
Gospel: Lk 7:31-35

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Lab nerd tweaks tiny particles to renew life

Front page A1

patent forces that would open doors to new ways of treating ailments.

Bernal, 39, brings to his medical practice an approach that is personalized and customized down to the molecular level. This means debunking the one-size-fits-all standard-of-care approach that puts patients in neat categories or unwieldy lists.

Impersonal care

"When I ask how a patient is and an intern just gives figures, I become sad. I want to know how is the patient living emotionally, spiritually? Is he comfortable, happy, sad, in pain?" Bernal says.

He runs the way patient care has become impersonal.

This is when moved him to file no lawsuit of a Filipino-American family, a landmark malpractice suit against a group of doctors, a hospital and a health insurance group in the United States that he accused of being "technical" to called standard of care procedures. The respondents settled out of court for an unprecedented sum.

Born in Iloilo, Bernal went abroad after his father became a US consul general.

The child of four siblings, Bernal finished chemistry at the University of Illinois in 1969. He already had a doctorate in biochemical pathology when he took up medicine at the University of Chicago.

In 1979 he was a fellow in internal medicine at Harvard Medical School and, later, in medicine at the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He trained in oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at Harvard.

BERNAL: Fil-Am physician, lawyer, scientist, MBA grad, university professor and cancer survivor

LIVE CELLS are cultured in the regenerative medicine lab at The Medical City in Pasig City.

Multidimensional person

Bernal is a board-certified oncologist and is a diplomate of the American Board of Cancer Specialties. He has authored papers and books on cancer.

Bernal earned his Doctorate in Jurisprudence from Loyola University and is a licensed attorney. He also has an MBA degree from the Pepperdine University in biotechnology business strategies.

Since 1992, Bernal has been with the University of California at Los Angeles where he is professor of medicine. He is concerned with several hospitals and biotechnology institutions and still finds time to teach at the Stevens School of Medicine.

A multidimensional person, he is also no one dimensional human.

Cancer strikes

In 2000 Bernal was stricken with cancer.

"I had no clue. I was completely healthy, writing a book," he remembers. "I was doing the chapter on kidney cancer." He noticed a change in the color in his urine and looked at a sample in the microscope. He could not believe what he saw.

Examinations later showed the cancer had invaded his abdomen, left kidney liver and lung.

"You could be dying and you don't know it. My head was floating, my mind went numb. It was a totally surreal experience. I was given a prognosis: most of death, three to four months," he says.

"I was on top of my profession and in control. Suddenly I was vulnerable. It was a setback. I had several papers and two more books in progress. I kept telling myself that my work was not finished."

Customized treatment

Bernal consulted colleagues all over the world. He was advised to come into a protocol. "I had to customize my own treatment," Bernal says.

He went for abdominal and thoracic surgery even if it meant working around a major blood vessel to retrieve and carve out the damaged parts.

"I was in the ICU for three weeks because my lungs would not reexpand," he said.

During the operation they got five cancer cells that were then cultured so we could observe their behavior and response to treatment. This is not ordinary by done," he says.

Bernal's cancer was the type that will not respond to radiotherapy or chemotherapy. The treatment he drew up for himself was unbelievably expensive and difficult.

"A lot of it was based on molecular biology work of scientists and this knowledge was not available or eliminate," he says.

Bernal devised his own dendritic immune therapy using his own tumor cells.

"The experts around the world encouraged me to do it myself. But at that time, they wouldn't recommend it to their own hospitals. They said it was difficult, impractical and expensive. It was being done but no experimental basis," he says.

Indications of mortality

"I prepared myself in fact my mortality. I fixed my finances and properties. I was already ill-versed then," Bernal says.

He has 40 patients. But after six months. Drugs began to clear up. After more than a year, Bernal was back on his feet.

No wonder Bernal is passionate about customized medicine and is on a personal mission to promote it. "The cure since this all pointed for solution diseases does not work. But 99 percent of cancer specialists cannot do it if their hospitals cannot deal," he says.

Bernal cell therapy, Bernal points out, is only one of the components of regenerative medicine. And because cells are not drugs that are mass produced, they are not for find-and-drug approval.

He shares a 2008 study that shows the significant impact stem cell technology could have on poor, developing countries in addressing their health concerns.

"Even if 99.99 percent of doctors here would say it is inappropriate, here are those would support saying otherwise," he says. "The most powerful force for healing are body is in our own body." (To be continued)

Hospitals hike fees to recoup losses from cheap medicines

Front page A1

Jimenez said in Filipino or a fiction on the regulation of drug prices.

Jimenez said a hospital was a different kind of business. "We will be forced to increase our services [fees] whether we like it or not. Otherwise, we'll be bankrupt and close shop," he said.

The MERP policy, which cut in half the prices of 21 kinds of essential medicines that were boxed in by dominated by expensive brands, went into full implementation yesterday.

Malacañang's Executive Order No. 821 imposed the maximum price that drug makers and hospital pharmacies could sell the medicines because prices did not go down despite the cheaper medicine law's goal of encouraging parallel importation.

Health secretary incensed

At the forum, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III was incensed by Jimenez's insistence that hospitals would go "bankrupt" because of the MERP.

Duque said he found it incredulous that hospitals would lose money to the point of bankruptcy because of foregone profits from the 21 medicines, which include common over-the-counter drugs for hypertension and high cholesterol.

"If you really stand by your claim that you will go bankrupt because of the 50 percent price reduction, show us your financial statement (ITR). I am a health financier. I will help you carve your P1 out by one," Duque said at the forum arranged by the Philippine College of Physicians in Quezon City.

Profit centers

Duque, who was chair of Philippine Health Insurance Corp. (PhilHealth) before he became health secretary, pointed out that private hospitals had other "profit centers" aside from their pharmacies.

"You get reimbursed by PhilHealth, but you have to demand your OR (operating room) fees but we didn't hear any thank you. You have heard and lodging, OR, professional fees and laboratory fees. You have many profit centers," the health secretary said.

"Why don't you give in when it comes to medicines. Why don't you join our goal to government to make medicines more affordable, so that our people would see that you are with them and that you're not just concerned with your interest," Duque said.

Delays in getting rebates

Pharmaceutical companies continued to oppose price regulation, claiming there was already market competition. Drugstore representatives, meanwhile, complained of delays in getting rebates from drug companies.

But it was the PHAP's insistence that its members would go bankrupt that got Duque's goat.

Jimenez defended the presence of hospital pharmacies to sell medicines at higher prices than those found in drugstores.

"I agree it's more expensive in hospitals. Could you get out of the hospital to the middle of the night to buy your medicine outside? What about the risk you have to take? So we have to be open 24 hours. You explain to me where you're going to get the money [to sustain this]," Jimenez told a reporter who asked a question about high prices in hospital pharmacies.

Duque did not let Jimenez's diatribe pass, and spoke out after Jimenez had returned to his seat.

"It's easy to come up with words and declare that pan-ha-cease we have halved medicine prices, hospitals would immediately lose money. But from what Rustico [Jimenez] is saying, I do not see the clear basis for this," said Duque, who looked at the audience while Jimenez kept his eyes on his cable.

He said it did not follow that because medicine prices were down, the prices of all other hospital services would also go down. "That's not correct," he said.

Applause

When Duque said he would challenge the hospitals to open their books, some members of the audience applauded.

Jimenez did not make a response.

Representatives from different stakeholders—drug companies, drugstores, doctors, pharmacists, patients and government attended the forum.

Long-term viability

Dr. Ruben Flores, president of the Philippine Hospital Association (PHAP), took the floor to say that his group was supporting the cheaper medicines law.

But he said PHAP members were concerned about their long-term viability.

"They are in this for business and they have to earn, of course with corporate social responsibility," said Flores, who is also medical director of the government-run Jose Rabelo Memorial Hospital.

Leading revenue source

Flores acknowledged that laboratory fees and pharmacy were the "leading revenue-making centers" in a hospital.

"But social services costs were bundled on top of the cost of the medicine itself and were not reflected in a patient's bill. "It is not good practice to include medicine administration fees to boost and budging news," he said.

"We want to be transparent and there should be a rationale" to the billing, he added.

Increase in volume

Duque said the initial "setback" for drug companies and makers would be compensated by increased volume in sales since, theoretically more Filipinos should now be able to afford and complete medication like antibiotics.

"We've end of the day, volume price compensates, we will make up for the losses. We don't believe they will lose money. Maybe at first there will be a setback but when the market expands there will be a good effect of all this," Duque said.

He urged hospitals to charge their true cost. "They were telling drugs "because the public has been a victim of the high prices of medicines for a long time."

A month since the MERP was first implemented, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has turned more to right drug stores, most of which are hospital and poor hospitals, to explain why they continued to sell medicines at the old prices.

But only one, the fourth line drug branch in Mandaluyong in Ortigas, Quezon City, was reconciled by the FDA in the final count since yesterday (PHAP).

The FDA said branch four did not immediately implement the new prices and was forced to leave sold the multi-preventive drug amlodipine at the higher price on Aug. 31.

RAMMY DACER'S white Toyota Revo was recovered in Barangay Mibato, Mangagoldoc, Cavite. VALENTIN VALDEZ

Dacer daughters plan to include Erap in suit

From page A1

DACER

COMELEC

chair Estrada in the complaint after former Senate Supt. Cezar Mancao II linked him to the abduction and murder of Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito.

Carballo said "Mancao's unequivocal identification of other personalities involved" in the twin murders was "a moral, developmental" and was not stated in his affidavit dated Feb. 13, 2009.

"In view of this, there is a question raised the present complaint is that those responsible for the gruesome killing of Dacer and Corbito, particularly former President Joseph Estrada, may be made to answer for their crimes," the Dacer daughters said in the petition.

They said they needed "sufficient time" because they were all residents of the United States and it would take a while for them to sweep in their amended complaint before the proper authorities.

At the Senate yesterday, Sen. Ramon Revilla Jr. (Estrada's son, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, that the former President had also been accused of Dacer's murder.

Taking the floor to refute the charges made by Senators Estrada on a privilege speech, Lacson told the Dacer family had amended its complaint and included the former President among the accused.

"So it's not true that this case, somehow is the only one, is adopted by the government from Gen. Ano ... being complained of by the Dacer family," Lacson said.

He said he made the statement, citing "for the record."

Sept. 3 hearing

Hilarion Ednaco Jr. in the double murder case during the Sept. 3 DOJ hearing on the motion to remove him from the list of accused to become state witness.

"I can say some people who are involved [in] or have knowledge about the operations were then President Joseph Estrada because [former Senate President Juan Ponce] Enrile, Aquino told me [so] in his office," Mancao told the panel of prosecutors hearing the investigation of the double murder case.

Mancao also named Lacson, Aquino and other former police officers Glenn Dumlao, Vicente Arnaldo and the late Rodolfo Vila. "Those six, I believe, have knowledge [of] or involvement in the operations," he said.

It was Mancao's testimony that convinced the Dacer daughters to include Estrada in the complaint, already being headed by a panel of prosecutors headed by Senior State Prosecutor Peter Ong.

"Wherefore, premises considered, it is respectfully prayed that complainants be given reference time to file an amended complaint-affidavit to implead Former President Joseph E. Estrada as additional respondent in this case," part of the Dacers' petition read.

The DOJ hearing on the reopened preliminary investigation of the Dacer-Corbito case is scheduled on Sept. 18.

Aquino is 'key'

Michael Ray Aquino fled to the United States after being accused of the twin murders. He is "the key" to the conclusion of the case, according to an official of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI).

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity for lack of authority to discuss the case, publicly said Aquino was more knowledgeable than Mancao about the postponed plan to send Enrile there.

"There is a need to speed up the extradition of Aquino to be tactfully to find on the case because he is the key," the official said.

Aquino is still contesting his extradition. But the NBI official said the bureau was optimistic that he would soon be flown back to the Philippines.

"The extradition case is continuing. We have not yet lost in any extradition cases. We have good relations with the United States, so I think our will win this case and the extradition request would be granted," the official said.

Asked if Aquino's testimony was more important than that of Mancao, the official said: "Of course Aquino was the operations chief of PNCCT [the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force], and as such, the operation [on Dacer and Corbito] was centered through him. It's impossible that it was executed without his knowledge."

Direct orders

The official also said Aquino had received direct orders from and was in "constant communication" with Estrada and Lacson, the then PNCCT chief.

He said that based on Mancao's testimony, there was a direct order given by Aquino on Dumlao, including the conduct of surveillance on Dacer at the Manila Hotel.

"It is up to who can provide those details. But if he chooses to keep his mouth shut, what can we do?" the official said.

Also according to the official, Mancao knows the whereabouts of Arnaldo, a former chief inspector.

"He's missing, but we heard that he is in the United States. We request for his extradition but [some] under cover by the Philippine government to the US," the official said.

Dumlao and Arnaldo were team leader under the PNCCT's Task Group Lacson headed by Mancao, the official said.

He said Task Group Vitaya and Task Group Mendoza were both under Aquino's supervision. With a report from Otto Reina-O Arnaldo

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Erap bullied me, says Yuchengco

From page A1

task force appointed as the board spokesmen of Mabuhay Commercial Banking Corp. (MCBC), a mid-sized bank owned and controlled by the Yuchengcos, is up and across one of Yuchengco's men, who was working at the bank.

Arevalitos, ambassador

At about the same time, news spread with Arevalitos and accompanied by "a Filipino ambassador," also went to see the elder Yuchengco, who served as ambassador to China and Japan, in his office "in an added incentive," said the source, who asked not to be named for his safety.

The source said Yuchengco finally agreed to the deal and the men who had threatened to arrest him were "disappeared (and) never came back."

In a statement disseminated via e-mail, Yuchengco, chair of the Yuchengco group of companies, pressed to the accuracy of Lacson's statements on the circumstances surrounding the controversial takeover of PLDT in 1998 by First Pacific.

"I confirm the statements made by Sen. Panfilo Lacson in his privilege speech relating to my 7.75 percent PTIC holdings, equivalent to 2,317,500 PLDT common shares," the statement read.

Sheer intimidation

"These shares were taken from me in 1998 through sheer intimidation and serious threat to my businesses, myself and my family," it added. PTIC is the nine held the biggest single block at 21 percent of the telephone company.

Gonbokuro initially attended the dissemination of the statement as it was released by lawyers of a firm who said they represented Yuchengco in this particular issue.

No direct confirmation could be obtained from the tycoon himself to validate the statements attributed to him, for a working official of the Yuchengco group who requested anonymity confirmed that the statement had indeed been authorized and issued by the group's chair.

In a privilege speech, Lacson said on Monday that PLDT was taken over by the group of Yuchengco—who managed First Pacific of Indonesia's Salim family—with the help of Estrada's shakedown of Yuchengco, who then controlled a small but important block of PLDT shares.

HAND JIVENEZ. Estrada called him a corporate genius. AFP/JOY NOVENO

Trumped-up drug charges

Lacson said Estrada had used the Philippine National Police without his knowledge to frame Yuchengco's son Tim "with the threat of arrest on some trumped-up drug charges to force his father, Mr. Yuchengco, to sell."

"In August 2000, in the early part of Mr. Estrada's abbreviated presidency, Mr. Alfonso Yuchengco was pressured to sign the conveyance of his 7.75 percent PTIC (Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp.) holdings, equivalent to 18,720 shares to Mikee Barrit, represented by Manuel Pangilinan," Lacson said.

He said these PTIC holdings corresponded to 2,317,500 PLDT common shares.

Before the deal with Yuchengco, First Pacific had finalized the sales agreement for 47 percent of PTIC—44 percent from the Cojuangco family and 3 percent from Antonio Moreno.

First Pacific could not reach the balance of 46 percent of PTIC because it was owned by Prime Holdings Inc., a shell company owned by the Marcoses, which was being sequestered by the government. PTIC owns 26 percent of PLDT's outstanding common shares.

In his privilege speech, Lacson said he learned later that Yuchengco was "pressed to sign that conveyance (to Barrit) as a final cover the PTIC shares of the Cojuangco-Moreno group."

Match First Pacific offer

Yuchengco earlier reportedly offered to match or top the First Pacific offer to buy the 9.6-percent stake of Cojuangco's "Rosebud" Cojuangco, then PLDT president.

Had Yuchengco not sold his stake and exercised his right of first refusal, First Pacific would not have controlled PLDT.

First Pacific announced in November 1998 that it had taken over the management of PLDT after acquiring a 17.2-percent stake in the telephone giant for P28.7 billion. Three months later, Pangilinan said he had just invested $750 million in PLDT for that stake.

Above board

Pangilinan's lawyer, Ray Espinosa, said after Lacson's privilege speech that the First Pacific Group's takeover of PLDT was "above board."

First Pacific, through its Philippine holding firm Metro Pacific Investments Corp., has since expanded its power and water utilities (Meralco and Manila Water), railways (North Luzon Expressway and Skyway), port services (Manila North Harbour) and health care (Medical Doctors Inc. [owner and operator of Makati Medical Center], Davao Doctors Hospital, and Cebuana Medical Center).

Elated

Lacson was elated that Yuchengco confirmed his allegation against Estrada that he "You can deliver your own privilege speech next week and I will follow it up with another privilege speech."

Yuchengco et al.

Lacson said certain persons had confirmed his allegations against the elder Estrada, who was President from 1998 to 2000.

He mentioned businessman Alfonso Yuchengco, former Bataan Gov. Leo Ivan "Chavit" Singson and Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes in his privilege speech.

"Singson's confirmation of the statement I attributed to him that when I waived the PI cell-site monthly bribe money (from Smart) intended for the chief of the national police ... Estrada called him up (to ask for the waiver)," Lacson said.

He added: "Secretary Reyes faced the media (yesterday) morning and he affirmed my statement attributed to him that during a Cluster II Cabinet meeting at the office of the Department of Foreign Affairs, he took pity on me and advised me that I should settle my differences with Estrada."

Glenn Dumlao

Lacson also said his claim that Estrada intervened in 1998 in the release of a shipment of smuggled rice in Cebu was confirmed by his former police aide, Glenn Dumlao.

He said he learned that Dumlao had told a fellow member of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force that he, Dumlao, was the one involved in the apprehension of the rice shipment.

"Dumlao also confirmed that he received instructions through another subordinate officer of PACC(?) to release the shipment, and the order came from the former President," Lacson said.

He added: "I would just like to emphasize I never lied in my privilege speech .... And it was confirmed by no less than three persons in my speech that I did not lie.

"And if I did not lie, someone is saying I lied. Who's lying now?"

Slime balls

Gen. Mariano Defensor Santiago was dismayed by the whole exercise and said it should be played out, not in the Senate but in the court of justice.

"Senator Lacson and President Estrada appear to be engaged in MAD, or mutually assured destruction. They're throwing slime balls at each other and if they don't stop they might succeed in covering each other with mud," Santiago told reporters.

Lacson twits Estradas: So, who's lying now?

By Christine O. Avendaño

NO SOONER DID SEN. PANFILO Lacson quipped yesterday as he pointed out that a number of persons had confirmed the allegations of irregularities he made on Monday against now ex-President Joseph Estrada.

No confirmation was received on the then Internet, Lacson and Estrada's son, Senate President Jinggoy Estrada, after the latter delivered a privilege speech assailing Lacson for his "lies."

Senator Estrada refused to be interpellated by Lacson, who took the floor to talk "(his) theory" questions.

He said: "I'm sorry, but I do not want to engage Mr. Lacson, the gentleman from Cavite, on a battle of words because this is not in defense of the honor of President Estrada.

"You can deliver your own privilege speech next week and I will follow it up with another privilege speech."

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Elated

Lacson was elated that Yuchengco confirmed his allegation against Estrada that he had bullied the latter to sell his PLDT stake to an Estrada crony.

Lacson said Yuchengco's statements only showed that he was telling the truth and Estrada was lying.

"So who is lying now if Al Yuchengco said he was intimidated so that he would be forced to sell his stake?" Lacson said. Yuchengco's statements came from Estrada's son, Senate President Jinggoy Estrada, delivered a privilege speech against the senator.

Abroad

Estrada scholars he informed Yuchengco beforehand about his privilege speech on the basis of the senator's experience, Lacson said he had no direct contact with the latter.

"I know he's not here. He's abroad," Lacson said of Yuchengco.

Lacson, a Philippine National Police chief during the Estrada administration, urged the former President to "surrender" and to tell the truth.

P20-M check from Pangilinan

A P20-million check that Pangilinan supposedly paid to bribe to Estrada was one of the checks deposited in the Jose Velarde bank account.

After Erap II that toppled Estrada, one of the cases filed with the Sandiganbayan was that Velarde had Pangilinan was examined.

The check that Pangilinan allegedly issued to Estrada was one of 567 checks that were deposited to Estrada's Jose Velarde account.

Pangilinan repeatedly admitted, edged issuing the check to Estrada in November 1998 as financial support to Estrada's new political party for the 2001 general election.

The Sandiganbayan found Estrada guilty of plunder and sentenced him to life in September 2007. President Macapagal-Arroyo pardoned him the following month. With reports from Dianne L. Lucas, Christine O. Avendaño and Doris C. Bonoan

Jinggoy calls Ping ingrate, desperate

From page A1

unbelievable double counter charge that will be filed against him in the double-murder case."

Estrada said the Rizal city elder lawyer delivered a privilege speech accusing the ousted President of, among others, involvement in the Jueteng-Corbito issue, allowing the operations of the illegal number game "betting" and accepting payola from it, and intervening in the release of smuggled rice and clothes during his abbreviated presidency.

He said Lacson was no "ingrate" for attacking the former President even as he previously instructed in Lacson's case to decrease security in 2005 and 2007.

He added that he himself was delivering a privilege speech "to defend the honor of my father" even as he denied Lacson's purported use of parliamentary privilege to "be brought his teeth without having to account to anyone."

But he refused to be tempted, hated by Lacson later. (See banned story on 6th page.)

Lawyer's statement

Estrada submitted the 19 sentences prepare of the statement issued by Ferdinand "Exposure, lawyer of former Senate Supt. Cesar Mancao II who is angering to become a state witness in the Senate's probe of the "Euro-Generals" issue buying jewelry in the Manila Regional Trial Court.

Topacio said in his statement: "In my honest opinion as a lawyer and based on the evidence so far adduced in court by my client, (Mancao), the circumstantial evidence with respect to the involvement in the Euro-Generals double murder case pervades to Sen. Panfilo Lacson."

Estrada said the evidence on his father's participation in the euro murders "does not describe in any way, by any possible opinion, will not pass muster even by the most liberal court's application of the rules of law or before any preliminary investigation in the Department of Justice."

He repeatedly called Lacson a "liar," a trial which, he said, was the "the hallmark of the administration."

He took Lacson to task for having "the audacity to use God's name" in saying: "God save the Philippines from Joseph Ejercito alias Joseph Estrada."

He said Lacson should not "include God in his lies."

Estrada roared that his family would not submit to exposing the "muck" behind Lacson's attack on his father.

He said the Estradas were "not afraid of anyone who is an expert to silencing his accusers," and that they were "ready to expose the truth about (Lacson's) cruel personality."

"The truth will set us free," he added.

Yuchengco shares

In his own privilege speech, Lacson underscored the need for the "strength and proper to prevail."

He said the ousted President, either is planning to make a move to stab at the presidency in 2010, had pressured businessman Alfonso Yuchengco into selling his stake in Philippine Long Distance Co. (PLDT) to the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan.

He claimed that the elder Estrada helped Yuchengco into selling the PLDT shares to Inc. gave 1998 to Pangilinan's group, the Hong Kong-based First Pacific Co., which eventually gained control of the telecommunications firm.

He said the transaction showed the ousted President's "active interest behavioral patterns" that "must be told to the Filipino people."

But Senator Estrada denied this and pointed out that Pangilinan loaned a denial on the same day.

"The legal counsel of Mr. Pangilinan denied [on Monday] that pressure was [brought] upon Mr. Yuchengco to sell," the senator said, adding that Yuchengco's pronouncements confirming the statements and the sale was one of Lacson's "fabrication."

Peace bonds

Estrada said Yuchengco was hardly a credible person to corroborate Lacson's "lies."

"You can not trust the word of someone who is one of the first beneficiaries of (President Macapagal-Arroyo) when (Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.) floated the infamous peace bonds?" he said, adding that the Filipino people "will soon pay the price of these bonds (worth P72 billion)."

The senator was referring to the Bureau of Treasury-issued Peverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates bonds bought at P45.099 billion by CORD-NGO, an umbrella alliance of NGOs and people's organizations, people's organizations and cooperatives.

The government issued the bonds in an auction in October 2000 through an underwriting agreement with RCBC Capital Corp. owned by the Yuchengco family.

They are dubbed "secret," so bonds that pay no interest periodically until are issued at a high discount of face value, and have a 50-year maturity.

"How can we trust the word of someone like Mr. Yuchengco who has betrayed the trust of thousands of Gawad Kalinga beneficiaries?" Estrada also said.

The banking RCBC Plan was a member of the Yuchengco Group that provided open-ended educational plans to plan holders nationwide.

It declared liquidity problems in 2002 and is now facing reputed estate charges.

Why only now?

Estrada asked why it took eight years for Lacson to issue the allegations against his father: "Why is Senator Lacson talking only now, when most don't obsessions are but approaching? In all fairness, we ask, what are his motives?"

He said he had just received a text message from a friend who said: "Lacson is a liar."

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More Pinoys living under Jeddah bridge coming home

By Cynthia D. Balana

ANOTHER GROUP OF 71 OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers who were living under the Khalidiya Bridge in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is set to arrive in the country today, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said.

The Philippine consulate in Jeddah reported in the DFA that a second batch of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) consisting of 62 women, six men and three children would be planning to on the Davao Aguinaldo International Airport at 11 p.m.

"The Philippine government extends its gratitude to the Saudi government for the immediate processing of the exit papers of the 71 Filipinos," the DFA said in a statement.

On Monday, a first batch of 66 Filipinos—24 adults and 42 children—arrived in the country from Saudi Arabia.

The DFA said the Filipinos were mostly workers who had fled abusive employers or had lost their contracts.

Instead of seeking help from the Philippine Embassy in Riyadh or the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Alkhobar, they opted to travel to Jeddah in the hope of being deported by Saudi authorities who would spur their return.

Many of them lived under the Khalidiya overpass, along with nationals from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh similarly situated. The bridge is across from an immigration detention center.

There are 180 Filipinos currently at the immigration center awaiting deportation.

Over one million Filipinos work in Saudi Arabia. President Macapagal-Arroyo is set to make a state visit on Sept. 21-23 on the invitation of King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud.

The DFA said that aside from discussing with the King the strengthening of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the President will bring up the welfare of OFWs in the kingdom, particularly those on death row.

22 RP seamen freed by pirates

By Cynthia D. Balana

ALL 22 FILIPINO CREW MEMBERS OF THE Greek-owned vessel MV Irene that was hijacked by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden on April 14 have been released.

The announcement was made on Tuesday by the Department of Foreign Affairs after confirming this information with the local manning agency of the Saint Vincent-flagged vessel, Bright Maritime Corp.

MV Irene was seized by pirates in the Gulf of Aden on April 14. The local manning agency told the DFA that negotiations for the release of the vessel and its crew had been successful and that it was now working on the repatriation of the Filipino seafarers.

With the development, the total number of Filipino seafarers still in the custody of Somali pirates has gone down to 20, involving two vessels. It was not immediately clear if a ransom was paid although online news reports said that the pirates were demanding $2.4 million to free the ship and its crew last month.

WHAT'S BABAYAN'S PLAN? Vice President Mali de Castro signifies the people of Bacoor, Cavite, as he appears to be outperformed by the republic's developments in the country. In his speech during the turnover of certificates of lot allocation (CELAs) to housing beneficiaries in the town, De Castro, who is chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC), said he was there not as president himself but to ensure the future of homeless families.

ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTING! Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro smiles after getting the endorsement of Lakas-Kampi congressmen as the ruling party's standard-bearer for the 2010 presidential election during a breakfast meeting in Quezon City. He is flanked by House Speaker Prospero Nograles and Zambales Rep. Mitos Magsaysay.

Teodoro touted to be Lakas-Kampi-CMD bet

From page A1

ry's richest, said he signed the manifesto that would be submitted to the executive committee today's meeting.

"Because of the endorsement of the congressmen and lawmakers, I am 99.9 percent sure he will be proclaimed tomorrow," said Secretary Jesli Lapus, the party's chief counsel.

In contrast, Fernando held a lunch meeting at the coffee shop of Edu Manzo (La Hacienda) in Mandaluyong City where media was closely outnumbered his administration supporters.

Lakas-Kampi-CMD executive director Rey Baguyo said that 30 of the 64 members of the executive committee—33 congressmen and 25 governors—had pledged to endorse Teodoro.

Fernando, asked about endorsements, but Teodoro said, "All of those I've talked with said they would also vote for me," adding, "Maybe they just signed for administration purposes."

Last call for De Castro

Vice President Noli de Castro, who has been a front-runner in recent surveys, has announced he is not interested campaigning under the administration banner, if ever he decides to seek the presidency.

Gabriel Claudio, party secretary general, said that De Castro had driven invited to the meeting today.

"We cannot take the liberty of counting him out. Technically the deadline has not lapsed," he said.

The party has given the Vice President an independent, until today to join and be counted as a contender for the palace plum.

In his impromptu speech, Teodoro called the Lakas-Kampi-CMD members to fight on further the party's unity.

"That is a show of support to our party, we heard we don't have a Cheza man's chance, but with this continued exercise, we will show the people we reckon with," Teodoro said.

Fernando ardazed

Ushered by Teodoro's show of love, Fernando maintained he was "double (decided), paragido (determined) at chorva (dead straight). Hindi ko ako (I will run)."

Fernando reiterated that his ratings had improved to 4 percent since stepping up his thinly veiled campaign ads a few months ago.

He predicted that his ratings would soar to 20 percent once the Lakas-Kampi-CMD has made him as its presidential bet.

Asked if he was willing to slide down as vice presidential bet, Fernando insisted that he remained "single-minded" in his pursuit of the presidency.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno has been the only Lakas-Kampi-CMD member who has announced his interest in the vice presidency.

Last shall be first

Sources acknowledged that Teodoro and Fernando had been imbroglio in the presidential surveys fluctuating upbeat, he quoted from the Bible: "He who is last shall be first and he who is first shall be last."

Sharon Bulo Bay, Rodolfo Agustino said that traditionally, administration candidates counted on a core 10 percent of the voters as their base.

Agustino said that a fractured opposition fielding at least four in the presidential derby would only enhance the winning chances of the administration candidate.

HINDA CHAIR and presidential wannabe Bayani Fernando hosts a lunch meeting where media was clearly outnumbered by administration supporters Tuesday at a five-star hotel in Mandaluyong City.

Teodoro said he would remain "friends" with his ousted rivals, Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, even if they were likely to clash head on in the May balloting. Aquino is the Liberal Party candidate.

"We will not fight because of politics," said Teodoro, who noted that he only became friends with Aquino when they were both members of the House of Representatives—Aquino in the first district and Aquino in the second district of Tarlac from 1998 to 2007.

Both are nephews of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, founder of the NPC, which is fielding sister Sen. Pimentel Barzaga or Sen. Lorna Legarda as its standard-bearer.

But Teodoro said he would not engage his cousins in a mud-slinging even if the camp of Aquino had cut up a campaign battle cry of good versus evil.

Teodoro said he would like to keep the debate merely as pinoys and compatriots. With reports from Zella R. Salazar-Ita, TJ Burgonio and Mike Gatbonton in Cavite

Chavit backs Ping on Erap 'jueteng' payola

From page A1

payola offered him when he was Philippine National Police (PNP) chief under Estrada.

"What Senator Lacson said about jueteng was true. Erap received money payola," Singson said in Filipino in a phone interview with the reporter.

Singson's testimony that he acted as Estrada's bagman in the jueteng racket led to the ouster President's impeachment and subsequent ouster in a people-power revolt in 2001.

The former Ilocos Sur governor is himself currently embroiled in a public scandal stemming from allegations by his common-law wife, Rachel Tiongson, that he had beaten her when he caught her in the company of her boyfriend.

'I am vindicated'

Singson said Lacson's Senate speech the other day meant so much to him because she proved that what he said in 2000 and 2001 about Estrada's supposed role in protecting illegal gambling operations was true.

"I am vindicated in my exposé before regarding jueteng during Erap's (presidency)," he said.

Singson gave Lacson credit for not accepting the payola supposedly intended for the PNP chief.

"To (witness to Senator Lacson, he refused the P8-million payola and chin some in Erap," he said.

Campaign against gambling

In Manila, PNP spokesperson Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina yesterday said the PNP was pursuing its operations to eradicate jueteng.

"The PNP is doing all its best efforts in eradicating jueteng in all parts of the country. We are also analyzing and evaluating if this illegal numbers game is perpetuating the ranks of the (Criminal Investigation and Detection Group)," Espina said.

STL is a type of legal gambling incentivized by the government in raising tax revenues.

SINGSON: I'm vindicated

Religious leaders in Baguio City who are involved in a campaign against the "culture of gambling," said they were not surprised by Lacson's request.

They also said candidates running in the May 2010 elections should publicly declare where they stand on the issue of gambling.

"It is high time for the clergymen to demand from all presidential and other national and local candidates to state their positions on how to confront this gambling menace," Baguio Bishop Carlito Cenzon told Inquirer reporters.

Crackdown on lotto

Cenzon was among religious and civic leaders supporting an antigambling rally of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines Baguio, which is demanding the closure of a lotto outlet just 100 meters from the church and its school.

"It's ironic that Baguio has been promoting itself as a 'Character City' and an educational center but the various lottos outlets now proliferating only help promote a culture of gambling," said Jose Singsioko (Jang) Jang, Jr., UCCP Baguio center pastor.

Mayor Reinaldo Bautista Jr. ordered the closure of the lotto outlet on Monday ahead of Tuesday's planned rally.

Joselina Bawasan, manager for Cordillera and Cagayan of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), has asked the lotto outlet owner, Evangeline Uson, to move her business away from churches, schools and hospitals.

Bishop-emeri claimed Dominican School Baguio's advice and Bautista's closure order.

US study

According to Dang-awan, Duterte claimed her outlet had been endorsed by former President Fidel Ramos, a Bonguinian townmate of Duterte.

Dang-awan said he wrote Ramos, who also belongs to the UCCP, and the former President clarified his endorsement of Uson's operation was subject to what the law allowed.

Dang-awan urged caregivers to support efforts to protect their campaign against 23 other lotto outlets in the city.

Both Dang-awan and Cayton said gambling discouraged people from working hard as they'd rather leave their fate to chance.

Dang-awan debunked claims that lotteries help government earn revenues.

He cited a US study, which he said revealed that for every dollar earned from gaming operation, $3 was spent to remove the "evils of gambling," such as the cost of prosecuting gambling-related crimes, treatment of gambling addicts, loss of man-hours as gamblers skip work, and training doctors and psychiatrists. With a report from Nova Quicomeng

Green group raises alarm on toxic flip-flops

From page A1

flip-flops and plastic shoes sold in the country, including popular brands in the mall, contain toxic chemicals.

The group cited a recent study which found that toxins in flip-flops, sandals, clogs and other plastic shoes in some countries, including the Philippines, "indicated disturbing concentrations of harmful chemicals that can injurious to human health and the environment."

The study was conducted by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC), the renowned 100-year-old environmental organization in Sweden, in cooperation with the EcoWaste Coalition and partner groups in India, Indonesia, South Africa, Taiwan and Uganda.

"We have found frightening concentrations of environmental toxins in shoes that can penalize people and the environment as the shoes become worn. The investigation also shows that companies have no control and that they are not aware of it," said Eva NC president Mikael Karlsson in a statement released by the EcoWaste Coalition.

'Chemicals Up Close'

According to the report "Chemicals Up Close," 17 of the 27 pairs of plastic shoes tested were found positive for phthalates which are used as softening agents in polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic.

According to Manny Calonzo, president of the EcoWaste Coalition, three of the four samples from the Philippines were found to contain diethylhexyl phthalate or DEHP with one sample containing DEHP and dibutyl phthalate or DBP. Malaysian study on DBP, DEHP, DIDP, DINP and DnOP are "endocrine disruptors associated with developmental and reproductive disorders, including locomotive molecular growth and decreased fertility in men.

DEHP in particular is officially classified as being able to cause impaired fertility and harm to the unborn child."

Among the brands tested are the "Rubsolit Swim Sandals" for children (Taiwan) to contain 0.9 percent of DEHP and 4.7 percent of DBP), "Beach Walk Sandals" for women and "Model Balance Sandals" for men (9.6 percent of DEHP) all bought from Al Nesib Edna Department Store, and the Dolce-made "Chupa Slippers" (8.4 percent of DEHP) bought from Puregold supermarket in Cebu.

Ban phthalates

In 2008, the United States banned phthalates from consumer products, particularly for children.

"There is no justification for the continued use of harmful chemicals such as phthalates in consumer products that could pose grave health and environmental risks. The toxics are spread as the products are used and can reach us when disposed in bodies of water, dumpsites and landfills," said Calonzo.

Also tested was the popular Crocs Cayman sandal but bought in Sweden, not in the Philippines. While Crocs Cayman and the "Beach Walk Sandals" were contained in phthalates, the study found traces of heavy metals like arsenic, cadmium, cobalt, chromium, copper, mercury, manganese, nickel, lead and zinc.

Heavy metals, too

"It is absurd that consumer products like these have traces of heavy metals which are harmful to the environment, not to mention the hazards to health and the environment," Calonzo said.

Rebel Barrera, a Bonguinian townmate of Duterte.

Dang-awan said he wrote Ramos, who also belongs to the UCCP, and the former President clarified his endorsement of Uson's operation was subject to what the law allowed.

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"It is absurd that consumer products like these have traces of heavy metals which are harmful to the environment, not to mention the hazards to health and the environment," Calonzo said.

According to the study, local and global regulations on harmful chemicals in consumer products are "far too weak" and that urgent and concerted political action is required to safeguard consumers and the environment from toxic hazards.

"We hope the results of the investigation would prompt our lawmakers to craft and enforce legislation that will tighten, if not completely ban, the use of toxic chemicals that are dangerous to public health and the environment," Calonzo said.

SC tells Comelec chief to explain info 'leak'

By Norman Bordadora

MELO

THE SUPREME Court yesterday ordered Commission on Elections Chair Jose Melo to explain why he shouldn't be cited for contempt following his alleged premature disclosure of the SC brass's decision on the validity of the election automation contract for the 2010 election.

The tribunal acted on the motion to cite for contempt filed by Concerned Citizens' Movement legal counsel Harry Roque to determine who the media reports on the supposed-to-be promulgated decision are the ones not wont to sow confusion."

Melo, a retired Supreme Court justice, had denied that he was the source of the leaked unpromulgated decision upholding the automation deal.

Marquez said the Court spokesperson appealed to members of the media to refrain from reporting the results of the justices' deliberations before the Court promulgates its decisions on the matters before them.

"Let's refrain from broadcasting them," Marquez said of unofficial reports of Supreme Court decisions that have yet to be promulgated.

"Just consider yourself privileged for having this privileged information. Broadcasting this is another thing," he added.

Reports of the Supreme Court's decision and how the justices voted regarding the validity of the Smartmatic deal came out two days before the verdict was promulgated on Thursday last week.

Melo, at that time, said that he received information from a source confirming the decision favorable to the poll automation contract. He later said that it was also a media person who told him about the justices' votes regarding the case.

Villar camp says Noynoy is peaking too early

By Christian V. Esguerra

SEN. RENATO "NONOY" Aquino III may be the "flavor of the month" but it is "early for the long haul."

The camp of Sen. Manuel Villar yesterday downplayed Aquino's strong showing in recent surveys of presidential candidates, saying he could be "peaking too early" with eight months still to go before the 2010 presidential election.

"The fight for the presidency is not a sprint," said Gilbert Remulla, spokesperson of Villar's Nacionalista Party. "It's a 50-kilometer race, an endurance test, an iron-man competition. You have to prepare for the long haul."

Describing Aquino as the "flavor of the month," Remulla said the increase, "Many other events will surely overtake the present happenings."

A Social Weather Stations survey conducted on Sept. 5 to 6 has seen in Luzon declared Aquino enjoying 58 percent of the vote compared to Villar's 14 percent.

Aquino has said that seven or eight other surveys indicated similar results.

Remulla said Aquino's high ratings were tied "to skeptical of the moment in time. It may be a different snapshot one or two months from now."

Remulla, however, admitted that Aquino's entry in the presidential race and his strong survey showing would force the Villar camp to "tweak our plans some more."

"Everything at this point should be taken seriously but also in context," he said. "For a while, we were comfortable being number one. It's interesting to see what's happening now."

Aquino, a three-term congressman before becoming a senator, got a fresh look from the public after the death of his mother, former President Corazon Aquino, last month.

Sharing rearguard former Sen. Rodolfo "Nikoy" Aquino Jr. for a father also helped. Both gestures are national heroes for their unwavering stand and ultimate sacrifice against the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s and '80s.

For Villar, a consistent survey leader until Aquino came along, Remulla said that early preparation, a smooth political machine and a clear program of governance would work to his advantage.

Remulla said many local government executives belonging to the administration coalition, particularly in Bohol, Cagsi, Iloilo and Negros, had been switching allegiance to the PDP since April.

Yesterday, he said the Bataan delegation of his family in Cavite formally joined forces with the NP. The local party represents 500 provincial leaders, including 13 incumbent mayors.

"We stress Senator Villar as the sole unifying factor whose leadership can reach out to various sectors in a bid to propel the country to higher ground," said Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla, Gilbert's brother.

NP RECRUITS: Sen. Manny Villar swears in members of Cavite's Partido Magdalo into his Nacionalista Party. (STORY)

Tan not afraid of brod's testimony, says lawyer

By Ellen C. Tordesillas Jr.

BUSINESS TYCOON LUCIO TAN IS NOT afraid of his brother, even if the latter has volunteered to testify against him in a government forfeiture case.

"He is not threatened," said Tan's lawyer Evelio Mendoza yesterday when sought for comment on the offer of Mariano Tanenglian to turn on his elder brother.

In a manifestation he filed last week, Tanenglian asked the Sandiganbayan to direct the government to act on his offer to be a witness against his brother and to reopen the presentation of evidence in the ill-gotten wealth case, which the antigraft court had already closed.

In a hearing yesterday in the Sandiganbayan Fourth Division, Mendoza objected to Tanenglian's motion to reopen the case, saying that it was the government—being the plaintiff—that should ask in reopening and not Tanenglian, who is Tan's counsel in the case.

He said Tanenglian's manifestation would only serve to further delay the case which has been going on for 20 years.

In a July 13 ruling, the Sandiganbayan ordered the government prosecutors to terminate their presentation of evidence, junking their motion pleading for more time to present more witnesses.

Mendoza said Tanenglian's offer to testify would not help the government for the both of the late President Ferdinand Marcos who are also running after Tan's alleged ill-gotten wealth, claiming that they own 60 percent of the tycoon's assets.

The government is seeking to prove that Tan's assets are part of the Marcoses' ill-gotten wealth, so they could be forfeited in favor of the state.

Asked later why he thought Tanenglian would cause against his brother and does he helping the Marcoses, Mendoza said: "It is because of their misunderstanding. He (Tanenglian) is helping his brother's (Tan) enemies."

The relationship between Tan and Tanenglian, an officer in many of Tan's companies, had soured over personal and business reasons.

RP maid rescued in Israel

By Jeanne Aning

A FILIPINO DOMESTIC HELPER HELD AS a virtual slave and prisoner at her employer' house for nearly two years in east Jerusalem was recently freed by the Israeli police.

According to the police quoted by Israeli media reports, a migrant organization named Kav Laved provided information to the police about the condition of the Filipina, who was said to have been forced to work without pay and vacation.

The Filipina woman, whose name was withheld, said her passport was taken from her by the couple who employed her. She recounted how her employers had accused her of stealing jewelry and she was afraid that she would be imprisoned so she agreed to work for them without pay.

She said that for the past one year and 10 months, she was usually locked up in the bathroom when she's not working.

GMA asked to take up cudgels for Pinoys in UK

By Jerome Aning

A MIGRANT WORKERS group yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to raise with the British government the ongoing, unjustified crackdown against undocumented migrants, including Filipinos, when she visits the United Kingdom later this week.

Ms Arroyo left last night for a visit to Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UK. She will be in London on Sept. 17 and 18, where she is to deliver the keynote address in "The Emerging Maritime Scenario" being hosted by London-based "The Economist" news magazine.

'Harsh' raids

According to the Migrante International, the UK immigration authorities have stepped up a campaign to rid the country of undocumented workers by conducting a string of "harsh" raids and on-the-spot checks on workplaces and establishments.

The group said the British government instituted last year a stiffer penalty system that imposes a fine of up to 10,000 pounds on employers for every undocumented migrant they employ.

Employers who hire undocumented migrants from outside Europe also face possible jail time.

The restrictions are part of a crackdown with crackdown against illegal migrants being implemented by European Union countries like the UK to protect the domestic economy and preserve jobs for citizens and legitimate migrants.

On Monday, the UK Border Agency raided three sauna in the village of Godstone in Oxfordshire and caught three Iranian-linked asylum seekers. The six-month firms were fined and issued civil-type penalty notices for hiring undocumented workers.

Migrante said it was concerned about Filipino working students who are facing difficulties in the UK because of changes in the immigration regulations.

"We received several complaints that migrant students were subjected to interrogations by the authorities due to suspicions that they went to UK to work and not to study" said Migrante chairperson Garry Martinez in a statement.

Only EU nationals

In Scotland, Filipino fishermen have also been asked to leave by the UK Border Agency which said only EU nationals may work in fishing boats plying British waters.

Migrante, citing government statistics, said that in 2007, there were more than 2,000 Filipinos students in the UK who were enrolled in English, information technology, business management and medical courses.

The number of students dramatically increased due to the existence of agencies that facilitate students visa that charged applicants as much as P300,000, Migrante said.

Migrante called on Ms Arroyo to work for the legitimization of, or amnesty for, more than 30,000 undocumented Filipinos in the UK during her visit instead of just inviting investors or touching overseas Filipino workers as cheap labor.

Reader's Digest
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INQUIRER

OPINION

Wag the dog

EDITORIAL

WHILE SEN. BENIGNO AQUINO III CLAIMS there are multiple surveys that more or less have the same findings as the privately-commissioned Social Weather Stations survey of "very rich" areas in Luzon—showing he has a popular standing to boost on to be astounding—questions have been raised if those surveys serve a propaganda purpose. Are they actually a snapshot of public opinion in a particular time and place, or part of an effort to manipulate public opinion and foster the impression of an Aquino bandwagon?

The big survey news prior to the announcement of Aquino's candidacy for the presidency was that Sen. Manuel Villar had reached the politically-critical 25-percent threshold, establishing him in the eyes of the political establishment as the front runner. The new surveys have the potential of resetting the political clock, so to speak, with Aquino as the new front-runner.

What did the survey released to the public reveal, and what did it not reveal? It is inaccurate to view them as a panoramic picture of Luzon sentiments. Rather, they are specific snapshots of specific places in Luzon, at a time when media attention was focused on the possibility that Aquino would declare his candidacy. Therefore, the picture is true for each of the areas surveyed: the National Capital Region, Pampanga, Region III, and Region IV-A.

What the media have done is present a composite picture, but again it would be misleading to interpret the survey as being in parity with previous national surveys. For example, while the total number of respondents for the SWS September 5-6 survey was 1,200 which is on par with national surveys, in reality the respondents are broken down as follows: 300 for NCR, 300 for Pangasinan, 300 each for Regions III and IV-A.

But these regions, which comprise 40 percent of the nationwide electorate, are not the nation in even fully representative of how all of Luzon might vote. The survey results suggest where Aquino is strong: 53 percent in the NCR; 40 percent in Pangasinan; 49 percent in Region IV-A; 49 percent in Region III. His reported strength in these areas, which except for Pampanga are traditionally inclined toward the opposition and where Manila-based media are most influential, still leaves other questions hanging. For example, much of most of Luzon has been anti-administration, and by extension, against the national candidates of the ruling coalition, the same administration has relied on the Visayas being an administration bailiwick, and Mindanao being up for grabs because of the watched factor outside urban areas there. The Aquino candidacy is being touted by its supporters as not only a campaign against machinery but also a campaign that reflects public dissatisfaction with what, until Mr. arrived on the political scene, was going to be mainly a bandstrain contest of candidates who were simply pursuing variations of the lawyer strategy of inducing urban voters by spending heavily in mass districts.

Returning to the SWS survey, it would take more analysis and the release of the specific statistical methods used to select the respondents and aggregate their responses for stratification and the public to determine if a composite picture is a fair representation of the announced findings.

But what makes it useful is that the survey establishes a limited benchmark for future surveys. The public and the political pros will be keenly waiting to see if future surveys do surveys bear out the SWS numbers, which have inspired so much announcement. In a sense, the Aquino supporters who have been trumpeting the results will either be rejoiced as having sold the wish—their support for their candidate equals that of all his rivals put together—or having relied on flawed data or put forward on impression not borne out by subsequent surveys. Put another way, if the numbers are validated by nationwide surveys reinforced by major pollsters, then the entire political class will have to panic.

At this point it may be premature to proclaim the survey as a case of wag the dog or an indubitable picture of a changed political reality. But it raises the tantalizing prospect that indeed the Aquino campaign will be a game-changer.

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Being half-Pinoy, Larrañaga should be jailed

FRANCISCO "PACO" LARRAÑAGA, ONE OF the seven crime of mid-Manilans convicted of abducting, raping and murdering Jacqueline and Marlene Chong of Cebu, is half Filipino and half Spanish. Therefore, he is not qualified to be shipped to Spain, there to serve his life sentence.

I think the Transfer of Sentenced Persons Agreement (TSPA) was intended for persons who are not dual citizens so that while in prison, they would not be too far from their families. Larrañaga's family is here, his mother is a mere Filipino. So why would he be transferred to Spain? Is that Filipinos imprisoned in Spain can be transferred here, government apologists said.

I find that hard to believe. Why would El, ignorant-caddy prisons in Spain send to be transferred to the hard labor that is the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa?

Besides, as women's groups and yesterday in a letter to the Inquirer, why privileges Spain when there are only seven Filipinos imprisoned there? Why not Filipinos imprisoned in the United States (Lumpanting is not jail? Why not Japan which has 734 imprisoned Filipinos, or Qatar which has 354, or the United Arab Emirates which has 486, or Abu Dhabi, 136, or Jeddah, 161 or Hong Kong, 127?

In fact, I suspect the TSPA bill was passed by our Congress precisely to benefit Larrañaga, who was already convicted of the heinous crimes but appealed it to the Supreme Court. The law was authored by Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco. Larrañaga's members of a political family in Cebu. Is it only a coincidence?

Being half-Filipino, Larrañaga should never have sentence here. His victims were Filipinos and the crimes were committed here. Justice requires that he be imprisoned here.

But the "criminal-friendly" administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo will never encourage Larrañaga to figure where he would probably be permanently get out of prison when he took block. GMA is courting voters of gratitude to Cebu politicians who made her president by giving her a whopping million votes in the provinces, thereby defending the head of Senator Dia it in the rest of the country.

As I See It

Neal B. Cruz

Tomorrow, the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) is set to formally announce, after bid evaluation, the award of the Manila North Harbor Modernization Project. The long wait is over. Finally, the Manila North Harbor, whose international gateway status has been downgraded to a mere domestic port, will be modernized.

Anybody who has gone to or passed through the North Harbor in Tondo knows that the harbor badly needs rehabilitation. It has become a scary place. Havoidous vying with one another to unload cargo or carry the luggage of departing passengers, wandering hawkers, truck-driving overtrollers, non-artists trying to trick gullible protectorates to part with their hard-earned money, confused passengers, chicken coops, displaced families, trash and refuse everywhere—generally an area of utter chaos. North Harbor is a decrepit port, the perfect picture of a Third World country.

Happily, the modernization of the harbor will change all that. The PPA had sent out the project last year. The consortium of Harbour Centre of the family of Hagdan Bonoan and Metro Pacific headed by Manny V. Pangilinan won it when the bids were opened two weeks ago. The project is estimated on June 30, 2009 a bid of P14.5 billion for the modernization of the dilapidated port which is in danger of collapsing.

Phase 1 of the project will be implemented over a period of 25 years. The contract signed is for that in that first year, the consortium was to LOAD (load on boat off) but four Terminal 1 and constructing of pavements of the container yards will be completed. After that, the operator will procure new shore cranes and support equipment.

Other components of Phase 1 rehabilitation, construction of additional LO-LO and RO-RO (roll-on roll-off) berths; development of an information technology (IT) system to facilitate travel and cargo handling. These are supposed to be completed within three years (based by start of the contract).

Phase 2 will cover the development of Terminals 2 and 3 and the second Passenger Terminal Building as Slip 5, to be completed within three years, commencing upon completion of Phase 1.

The construction of North Harbor into a world class port will be done without the government spending a single centavo. The government, through the PPA, is guaranteed a fixed fee of P6.9 billion for 25 years regardless of economic conditions. The PPA will realize collection of fees for cargo, wharfage and anchorage among others.

It will remain the government's sovereign power to levy tariff and its authority to approve rates of fees and charges.

The project includes dredging around the port and removing the right old piers, replacing them with modern ones such as similar to the modern piers of Singapore and Hong Kong designed up the entry and exit of goods. Once completed, the North Harbor complex will be the most modern facility in the country and revive the glory days of Manila as a premier port.

* * *

The walkout by the lawyers of Ang al-Ilaw from a court hearing was intended to stop Raul Concepcion of Del Pilar Hotels from testifying on how much the pump price of fuel should be. Based on this testimony, the people of Iloilo City, paying, refining and distribution costs. Concepcion's computations would have shown how much the oil companies were charging Filipino consumers.

The Department of Energy can't say how much the prices of fuel should be. What's the matter, they don't know how to compute? Low he to any calculator info?

All that has OOR officials will tell you is that it has no power over the prices because the oil industry is deregulated. What's required

Cro-Magnon

THERE'S THE RUB

Commander Ah Quinco

I remembered those two songs after I read some of the reactions to Chavit Singson's average meeting of his wife, Chu Tempest, and her companion, notably from some of the country's lawyers of the poor. "It's his way of dealing with his rage or hurt/me," said Chief Justice Reynato Puno. "Dapat lang inilagay sa 'yong mahirap sila (Wife and poor), they get less than they deserved," said Supt. Gerardo Rabalca. "Pag-ibig ko ngayon ko na pinatay, ako lang ang nasaktan lang (If I catch my wife that way, only her rapist will be tormented)," said Nora Aunor, in response.

Over the past weeks, I've read from newspapers and heard from TV radio the various reactions of people, authority figures and non-authority figures to this. In the end, "No one has the right to tell him whether the 'crime' merited that mode of punishment, some saying the punishment exceeded the 'crime' and others like those about seeing total shock after. In fact, when I read the problem is simple. Which is: Should the same judgments apply if Chu Tempest had done exactly the same thing to Chavit Singson?

Should the same judgments apply if she had gone to the house of the deputy security chief with some goons and finding him to be cohabiting there with another woman ordered the goons to beat him up? No. Does the head him up, pistol-whip him and his companion again and again within an inch of their lives? And having done that exposed and belittled Chavit in public to a mess of such contemptible words he doesn't deserve to get within crowded yards of his children?

It's unthinkable of course, not least because you cannot possibly get within a hundred yards of Chavit to wreak anything remotely like obvious

ing question. Which addresses the oppression. But even if it were possible, would the sentence be the same? Would police superintendents be saying, "It was Cho's way of dealing with her rage or his/him," "Talaga ang mga yang mahirap si Chavit," and "Dapat dinalang sila ang nakaganito"?

Not at all. Everyone would be aghast and demanding that Tempest be charged from the moment true. Which is the reason "Delilah" is exceedingly popular in this country and "Miss Otis Regrets" exceedingly not so. It's not just because "Miss Otis" is subtler and "Delilah" crudely impolite—knowledge for a spread familiarity for the art and vulgar—it is the reason the sentiments of the latter are suppressed in the country and the former not so. A man murders his wife/partner/"my woman," because of infidelity and the people of this country, men and women alike, sympathize with him and damn the murdering dead to hell. A woman murders her husband/partner/significant other for infidelity and the people of this country, men and women, sympathize with the victim and damn the instantly police she-devil to hell.

Chavit's reputation for being a stickler for marital fidelity is not entirely legendary. This is that of the average Filipino male. Hell, men boast about their infidelity all the time—it is the stuff of drinking sessions. And the devil take the hindmost, or the "good boy" who gets ridiculed or murdered or the capabilities of his real-minded. People have been killed for years, harboring a lesson in his neighborhood. A woman does the same thing, or less, and she would comes down hard on her.

That is the point. It is not whether the punishment was commensurate to the crime—that is another issue altogether. It is the emotional upheaval equally to Cho, whose guilt we only have the word of Chavit on, and Chavit, whose guilt he parades openly before the world. Unless we are prepared to decree "Bye-ang Inhale" then whatever yardstick one uses we apply to the punishment of this woman we must apply as well to its man.

Let's see how many men will be walking around with only their wrapper remembered

Transparency now a defining issue in campaign

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

IN THE FIRST OPINION POLL TAKEN AFTER the unfinished Gloria Arroyo presidential term of five, Blue Ribbon on Sept. 7 lists Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III surged ahead to a 11 percent lead against his prospective rivals. Reporting this disarrays the entire frame of the derby. The surge shuts shocked, marginalized and brusquely swept aside the previous leaders in the contest to the race.

In the Social Weather Stations poll taken on Sept. 5 to 8 to the 40-single Dagupan Gazeta correspondent, from General to Southern Luzon, home to 48 percent of registered voters, Aquino ran the ratings of Sen. Manuel Villar to a seventy 1-0 percent, and Governor Jejomar Binay to 12 percent, and Vice President Noli de Castro to 7 percent. The survey was made in the Nationwide Original Regions, Pampanginan, Region 3: Central Luzon and Region 4-A (provinces of Southern Tagalog).

Although the poll reflected sentiment only in the Dagupan-type areas mentioned, the results reflected growing undercurrent of preference of Aquino if election had been held in early September. The results shattered the early confidence of Villar and caught him reeling, reducing him to seeing people he should want to be the automatic poll results, that at the end of the month, are history.

There were indications in the early results of a deep undercurrent of support for Aquino—and a tendency toward a landslide, if the early results are sustained nationwide to the next two months. The poll was taken a day after Senate withdrew and held a week before Aquino announced that he would run for president.

The results also revealed the presidential race presidential tandem preferences of the voters. The respondents said they favored an Aquino-Roxas ticket, 51 percent like some percentage for Aquino-Lorenzo Legarda, 12 percent; Villar-Edu Pangilinan, 11 percent, to endorse Jejomar Binay 9 percent, and De Castro-Senator Pimentel, 4 percent.

The results prompted a reshuffling of the team-ups, and left most likely a combination of Aquino and Roxas for the Liberal Party dupeiro has asked Roxas to be his vice president running mate, but Roxas has not yet announced his decision.

The results showed that Aquino and Roxas would support each other in the same ticket. He is uncertain up until now as to whom he would choose as his running mate, reflecting the confusion sensed by the early results on both the government and opposition camps. In the new administration side, the immediate impact of the survey results was that De Castro has informed the administration Lakas-Kampi-CMD alliance that he would not run for president under its banner. The merger of administration parties is in shambles for the time being. Speaker Prospero Nograles, who did not show impressive ratings in the previous opinion polls. It remains to be seen how Nograles would rate in the next survey and whether or not Aquino's surge has sidelined Nograles further.

Aquino's ratings that the early 1969 poll results were confirmed by similar results in eight other separate surveys. He interpreted the results as an indication that "people want change."

From my own point of view, the survey results reflect the deep and broad resistance of the voters of abuse and flawed governance that highlights Aquino's campaign theme. The groundswell of support for Aquino following the death of his mother, President Cory Aquino, flows from the public service record of his brother and his father, the most prized human ties. Benigno Aquino's honesty and transparency appear to have been accepted by the Filipino public.

The transparency and honesty issue appears to have gained ground as the central issue of the 2010 elections. It is shaping the Aquino campaign, although no presidential aspirant can claim ownership of the issue.

As a result of the Luzon survey, Villar has to revise his issues and present a more grabbing theme than his old mantra of his having risen from rags to riches and his having helped overseas Filipino workers.

The survey results appear to have damaged the chances of former friends, even as late. Profile Luzon stepped up his accusations against his former boss, in a privilege speech. Luzon accused friends of having conflicts of interest and violations of law in selling his stake in the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. to Manuel V. Pangilinan. The senator also said Estrada may have something to do with the murder in 2000 publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer. Luzon also said the former president had intervened for the release of smuggled chicken and rice during his administration, and allowed jueteng operations to flourish.

While some of charges are old hat, since they were dealt with in his impeachment and plunder trial, these now accusations impel formulate exchanges between the opposition and the administration parties and also damaged his moral authority.

It is now clear that honesty and transparency in governance have become the defining and overarching issue in the election campaign. This is established in the early poll surveys. Villar and the rest of the field have to reinvent their campaign themes.

'Love' and power game awry

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THEY CALL IT "A LOVE STORY GONE AWRY," although we can give the title many other twists. "The Wicked and the Considerate," or "The Dark-side's Revenge."

Whatever the title, say members of the Women's Action Network for Development (WAND), the story of the imbroglio between Cherry Pargas-Sandoval and long-time lady love Rachel "Che" Tiongson has caused more than the private to the public realm, because it not just involves the issue of sexuality and wooing, but more importantly, a true case on Filipino society's belief in the equality of men and women and democratization of spaces and its still home of violence against women. And since the principals are blood related (Cherry Pargas-Tiongson under the first Hedreyo against Flowers and Children Law, the matter has ceased to be mere "soap opera-esque" to quarrel between partners and has become an issue of law and public interest.

In their statement, the women of WAND, a national coalition of women's groups, say they wish to highlight certain issues occasioned by this "love affair":

• Pinoy impunity men have invoked male privilege to justify verbal, emotional and physical abuse of women. When will this stop?

• When one partner calls a patently unequal relationship "love," should the other partner who didn't support (or threats or blackmail) be accomplice and sexual privilege?

• Men do not own women's bodies or their souls. These are a highly placed public official be allowed to get away with the claim that he was wrongful and brutal assault on a woman he dated in his own touch on her male friends when he had long had tried that "claim" On-line reporting used a tool of ill-children's?

• Will just to show that the ordeal and public humiliation of Che Tiongson is not an isolated case, the WAND statement points out other cases that had previously grabbed the attention of the media, in which the aggressively barred not taught us anything, or curbed the intolerance of violences against women.

"Have we not learned a lesson from the tragedy of Theresa Carlson, driven to imminent and eventual suicide by a governor-husband prone to emotional and physical cruelty who showed legal redress to keep her away from their children? Have we not learned a lesson from the ongoing investigation on Baby Rose Bartumeda entombed in concrete in the Sorsogon river (according to one of the hired killers) for having committed the crime of the ambition of her powerful in-laws? The recourse ask.

"God created man and woman equal but a partial life together to create and procreate. Not to bring an entire species under the tyranny of unequal, sexual entitlement over humanity, philandering over fidelity, the gender wars will rage unabated and there can be no peace between the sexes," the WAND statement continues.

• "The Magna Carta of Women was passed after a long and bruising battle in Congress. Let us not just look on talk, let us walk our walk, by helping ensure that justice is served in this long and bruising battle of Tiongson vs. Sandoval and that the public will not fall prey to the narrative that spins and weaves for too many complex lives."

• • •

ON ANOTHER matter, Landa Jaworski of The Learning Center (TLC), has found time to reach out to young adults with developmental challenges (before what she calls "the demanding keyage" and in the comedy film "Kimmy Dora."

I appeal to everyone to please sing the demanding song of the same title, "Kimmy Dora," written Landa, reminding everyone that "it only seems like a funny and jerky joke until you yourself have a child with special needs."

Landa calls on audiences to join the movie, or the very least "help educate people on the hurtful misconceptions of ignorance and insensitivity to people with developmental conditions."

In defense of the people featured "Kimmy Dora," which I myself enjoyed, I don't think it was their intention to reinforce or demean people with developmental challenges. The movie centers on a pair of twins, Kimmy, an overachiever with a resentful attitude towards life and everyone else, and Dora, who is described as "simple" but kind-hearted.

The hurtful words were uttered by Kimmy in reference to her twin sister and were precisely meant to hurt Dora's feelings and demonstrate Kimmy's insensitivity. In fact, you could argue that by making Kimmy the villain of the piece, were those unsuitable terms, the movie makers were underlining her villainy, and highlighting the virtues and value of people like Dora.

Of course, I understand how the families of people with developmental problems could be hurt by the use of derogatory terms, and raising awareness of the need for greater sensitivity is our language and attitudes could be helped immensely by the publicity.

• • •

IF YOU are a group of pregnant women marching towards the Batasan this afternoon, don't be surprised if you find yourself in the midst of our honorable representative males honest women of them. But they dearly want Congress to make life safer and more healthy for them and their families, especially their unborn children.

The "women-to-be" are marching in support of the Reproductive Health Bill, which is one of the pieces of legislation pending before the chambers. With the resumption of deliberations on the bill, supporters are calling for an interpellation process saying on the long-delayed measure.

While marching, the group will tie purple ribbons on trees, gates and other structures in the vicinity to support "Purple Thursday" and the "women's cause." Everyone who loves men, co—mothers, wives, sisters, friends and lovers, pregnant or not—is invited to join the march for life and rights.

Gossip and intrigue in Malolos

LOOKING BACK

Jaroslav R. Olarnyo

WHEN HISTORY BOOKS REFER TO THE MALOlos Congress, the Malolos Constitution, or the Malolos Republic at the end of the 19th century, the images that come to mind are of men in black frocks and top hats, the founding fathers of the Philippines, in session in historic Barasoain Church.

Malolos was the capital of the First Republic headed by Emilio Aguinaldo who used the Malolos Church as his headquarters. If the sessions of the Malolos Congress were actually held in nearby Barasoain Church, shouldn't our textbooks be corrected to reflect the Malolos Republic, but the Barasoain Congress and the Barasoain Constitution?

Long before the Philippine Revolution broke out in 1896, intelligence reports were sent to Manila identifying suspected subversives or those who were simply anti-Spain. The most prominent among them was Marcelo H. del Pilar.

In 1958, when the National Library published the two-volume "Epistolario de Marcelo H. del Pilar" as part of a series documented letters of historical interest, known as "Documentos de la Oficina de Biblioteca Publica," "the compilation of del Pilar's letters came with a handful of documents from 1888 and the years 1895-1896 collected by Retana. C. de Reyes first gave us an idea of the climate of gossip and intrigue that prevailed in those troubled times. These are raw intelligence reports from the parish priests of Malolos and other spies or informers updating the government in Manila of suspicious activities and suspected subversives. Although the reports were not signed, the documents make for engaging reading. Some excerpts:

"Don Manuel Clemente, 40 years old, present Municipal Captain. Has little affection for our nationality and is particularly anti-monastic, has a mistress in neighboring Guiguinto. Consequently he is a cholic and wheedling toadyman to Buen Bustamante who used for hunting the seminary where he spent two years.

"D. Mariano Crisostomo, 48 years old, married, delegate of this municipality and former Capitan? Del Pilar responds: "He is friendly with the 'amigos' [friends in del Pilar's euphemism], and I also believe him to be one of the Illustrados. I have should also be put information about him.

"D. Mariano de Leon, 42 years old, married, a man with little education, with a bad disposition and given to interference in municipality, a fact that I find strange but which I attribute to his ties with people who are respected, is most active in anti-monastic matters, is by nature cunning and cynical; was hired sacristan and choir boy of this church some years ago and was dismissed because of his bad behavior. He is a friend of the Gov. Gen. and the families of Marcelo and Luis del Pilar to their plans against the friars. I also think he is anti-Spanish like the rest."

Gossip similar documents can be dug up in the National Archives providing more flesh to the bare bones of history. Take the case of Governor-General Valeriano Weyler who was sent to the Philippines for the first, history will some also to the disastrous tenure of relishing events.

• • •

THERE is no better proof of Filipino hospitality than the wonderful sign above the entrance to the Manila Yacht Club: "Welcome ye Gentlemen del Bonn. But look "Welcome ye kine dito."

I pointed this out to friends recently and asked who was willing to accept the invitation. There were no takers. Their reaction was the equally hospitable, "Sa mo pare, go ahead."

The unusual use of Spanish-speaking friends who called my attention to the etymology of the word "Pang." In a previous column, I surmised one of the enduring legends of the Pang clans: the ill-fated lovers who eloped one night with the man drowning in the river. He did not know how to swim so he called out to his lover to save him. She replied that she could not swim but supposed to be on appeal for help: "Pat, sigue me! Pat, sig...Ohs save me!." There is some mistake here because saline' he never in the corner early, as the lovers should have said, "Pat, salve me!" and so the name of the lady should be "Pa sal." If the clans should, "Pat, sigue me!" he was drowning the lover to follow him to his watery grave. Inclusion sometimes seems to stay put and she lived to tell the tale.

Comments are welcome at asamp@pacific.net.ph

The 'siobe' factor

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THE OTHER WEEK I WROTE ABOUT LOAN PORGIS PRIME Chairman Teddyboy Locsin, and noted that the homecoming senator, even if on a new key mode. One would be talking some language but about politics, but we will return to siobe shortly. What I wanted to write about was just fun and frolic. I am not referring here to dynamics, but, simply to the "significant others" that influence our personality, views and lifestyles.

Taiwan is still reeling from the scandals around its former president, Chen Shui-bian, who together with his wife were found guilty last week of corruption and money laundering and sentenced to life imprisonment. There's still a long appeals process ahead, but just the conviction should get some of our politicians a bit apprehensive.

Barrowers

In the context of the Philippines, I wanted to zero in on the manner in our new "democracy" here. Clearly, the situation in the Philippines is patriarchal, with men as the head of the family, we are also matrilineal, meaning women play important roles in our lives, both in the private or domestic sphere, and in public life.

Mothers are often under-rated but they can be quite influential, perhaps universally. Many of you have heard that "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," a reference to the potential power of mothers. This actually comes from a 19th century poem by an American, William Ross Wallace.

The Filipina woman is more powerful than her counterparts in many cultures, in part because so many of them have economic power. This isn't because of the stereotyped view of husbands supporting their wives' subsistence (the "remittance", the fact is that many women, even from the poorest of families, are always finding ways to supplement the household's budget.

Many Filipino wives complain about the assertive, if not domineering, mothers-in-law, and others about how they ended up with a mama's boy. It's one of those paradoxes the most macho societies in the world. (for example Mexico, Italy) also have strong matriarch boy complexes, where the men, for all the displays of masculinity, cant miss little Celsos when their mothers glare at them. This, I suspect, applies even to the most macho of our politicians.

But I think we have evolved beyond that. They too can be quite influential. The country has worked from the engaged divorcetology under Marcos, but we forget that other issues aside, embarrassing first ladies were able to get things done behind the scenes. I'm thinking of Ming Romeo, who did so much of civic work but without seeking publicity. I think too of Michelle Obama, a brilliant woman who could stand by her husband and still be her own person, and yet displayed a low key modesty that brought her husband even more votes than if she had been more aggressive.

In the case of the Liberal Party presidential and vice presidential candidates, we have an interesting situation where both are "married" to their exes. Even so, people are already watching the wives to be, and commenting.

Sunny

That's not just to the senator, who used to be unbeatable—until Kuyang Aquino came along. Noynoy has front issues, two of them younger than he is and therefore siobe. The three other sisters have kept a low profile. Then there is Kris, The Siobe.

In traditional Chinese society a siobe was at a disadvantage because she was a girl, and a younger sibling. The Philippine context is different, even for ethnic Chinese families. While some tend to be more privileged than daughters, the girls still get a more active social role in traditional Chinese society. Kris, for instance, has always had the instinct to converge with our "siobe syndrome." Being insecure, the youngest, meant that you are pampered, if not spoiled. Siobe is therefore a form of endearment in the Philippines, a way of saying, "This is our little one, and we're all out to protect her."

Good, little brother, is also included! Not being male, he has an favor as he grows up because he goes off with his brothers, and starts to lead his own life. The siobe, on the other hand, remains close ties with siblings, and actually accumulates power. What siobe wants, siobe gets.

So, what does Kris want? Siobe power is as good as status. For now, we'll have to wait and see her statements that she would like to see, through Noynoy, a continuation of the legacy of her parents.

The day Noynoy announced his candidacy, I was at the University of the Philippines for a symposium on Cory Aquino's leadership. I was one of the speakers and I focused on matriarchal values and how they can help bring a substantive sanity and suggested we look at our candidates' wives, mothers and sisters. The next day our newspapers all carried front page reports about Noynoy's candidacy, hyperlex with photographs of Noynoy—and siobe. (The bayaws had Kris with her son.)

There's more evidence on all this than gender. Some of you may have read Frank Sullivan's "Barrs is Belled," a massive study proposing that sibling order matters as well, with the eldest child tending to prefer a preservation of the status quo while the younger siblings tend to be more unconventional. Sullivany himself admits that sibling order has complex interactions with other factors including parenting style, personality, even historical circumstances, but he says family dynamics are primary.

I need to review these studies more thoroughly and will write about some of them findings at the campaigns unfold. Meanwhile, do watch the mothers, wives and sisters. I don't want to be watching, as I did in my own family, watch the fathers, husbands and brothers, too. Certainly we've seen how entire families can be involved, for better or for worse, in our politicians' governance.

THEY SAID

Religious wannabes

"To my mind, the outbreak of these religious wannabe preachers is an argument against the ruling administration, meaning to say, the present ruling administration cannot be blamed for as bad that is made these three religious men seek the presidency."

—Lingayen Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz

Transformational leadership

"In our home front, we have former President Cory Aquino, an example of transformational leadership who taught us that it is not the love of power but the power of love that secures the throne of leaders."

—Chief Justice Reynato Puno

Nation's date with destiny

THE SADDEST PART OF BEING A FILIPINO lies in the fact that we expect change every time there is an election. But change has not happened in more than half a century it has not because there are three ingredients in order that a people achieve for themselves the purpose of nationhood, which means, politically speaking, that people, children and the elderly, women and the vulnerable, the poor and the powerful of the poor, do attain for them- selves a standard of living worthy of their dignity as moral persons.

The first necessary ingredient is for people to have real choices in life. Politically speaking, in our transitory democracy, people were for those who are influential—either because of their money or because of their popularity. The reason for this is, they have no real choice, to begin with. A hungry stomach desires the initial to grab the nearest available bread... But to say, the traditional politicians, with brand in hand, stands in the doorstep of this hungry man.

The second requirement is that as one nation, we should be able to assert our sovereignty. This is our life and as it is for us to determine our destiny. Structural adjustment programs which came as a result of the Washington Consensus did more harm than good to countries that adopted them. Globalization is good, but it must not in any way mean that as a people we are to sacrifice our blood and lives for it.

The third requirement is moral leadership. If corruption is a problem, then you cannot expect a leader who is tainted with corruption to provide corruption to clean this country. How does one know when a leader is unfit? By intuition. By who lives example life is found likely to use his office for self-aggrandizement. If indeed one is to be serious against corruption, then one must be a non-elected so that the young generation who will take over this country will have sensitivity to emotions. It may not be possible at this time to punish all who may politicians, but I am sure they are not immortal. As a young man, I am more concerned with the future.

The lesson tell us that our real mission in life is to serve souls. A corrupt politician will not be able to do that because he can't even save his own soul. But what does that really mean? It means that people should be able to provide others the opportunities for a life well lived and never take advantage of them. When one is in power, one can naturally control others. But that is not accountable to him. It is to that power is what it does not use not able to own others. On the day lies, Benigno Aquino III made his decision, we, Filipinos finally had our days with destiny in creation.

—CHRISTOPHER JUAN RAMOS BC
manuelaidon77@yahoo.com

PHILIPPINE National Railways coaches at its Hoga City station.

PNR should compel Hanjin to finish railway rehab on time

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT ALL 18 railcars to be acquired under the Northrail-Southrail Linkage Project, Phase 1 has been delivered on time by Rotem of Korea and are ready for operations. The commuting public can look forward to fast, comfortable, reliable and pain-bad trains. The six 3-car train sets can make as many as 108 trips a day between Tutuban and Alabang. No more waiting, no more asking what time the 6 o'clock train will arrive, no more fully packed trains, no more late arrivals and missed appointments.

The bad news is that all of the above will not happen. At least not until after the repair and reconstruction of the tracks and other railway facilities are completed by the Korean contractor, Hanjin. Originally projected last April 2009, completion is now—according to the most optimistic forecasts—March next year. But at the rate Hanjin is doing the job, we should not be surprised if the project will be completed only in December 2010.

The above would be funny if the implications are not serious. At present, there are only 18 trips a day and these are between Tutuban and Binondo only. Two train sets are used, the other four are idle—inconsistent to the brief history of the Korean contractor. Considering that these rolling assets are worth all of $$$ million, the PNR management should shed its complacency and load Hanjin the last act or, better still if possible, replace the present

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Kaguro throws support behind Noynoy Aquino

FILIPINOS IN CALIFORNIA, ESPECIALLY IN Los Angeles and nearby cities and counties, are enthusiastic about the presidential bid of Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III. Likewise, they commend Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II for his selflessness in giving way to Noynoy.

There is a saying in Filipino which says "Isang ano ang puno, iyon ang bunga." (What the tree is, so is the fruit.) The only son of Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. and former President Cory Aquino, both icons of freedom and democracy, Noynoy also possesses the character and virtues of his parents. And the Filipino people pin their hopes on his youth, integrity, probity and "winnability."

Contrary to the claims of Malacañang, the comeback (cont) Noynoy's candidacy will last long, persist and intensify. There will be a groundswell of support for Noynoy in the days to come. More and more volunteers will come forward to work for Noynoy. People will do their share to make Noynoy win. Along this line, I am happy to note that my

favorite columnist, Conrado de Quiros, has come up with a catchy slogan for Noynoy's candidacy: "NoyPI ako, Kuh!" NoyPI stands for Noynoy Presidential Initiative, according to him.

How about me? Do I support Noynoy? How? As a teacher leader and founder of the Kapisanan ng mga Gurong Retirado (Kapisan), I will, for a start, gather teachers and organize the School Teachers for Aquino-Roxas Tandem or STAT. (2) I hope Senator Roxas will agree to be Noynoy's running mate.

I have the highest respect for these two gentlemen and principled leaders. The Aquino-Roxas team will kick off a "change movement" for good governance and replace an inept and corrupt administration. Let us join hands for change and reform. Now is the time to do that!

—FENERIO S. SAN JESUS
founder, Kapisan, last association of retired educators of Rizal and teachers)
stsanjesus@ymail.com

An eye-opener for heads of gov't agencies

THE REPLY TO CHRIS DOYON Sept. 3 column titled "Strangers in Paradise (copy lines)."

I guess any law-abiding Filipino will do as "Tatlo Atlay" as I' perched to the wall. Now that we know Atlay's reasons for not paying taxes, the government agencies that are directly involved should have and act on her immediate concerns.

These are not only the concerns of a small town in Batangas. These are concerns affecting the whole country. All don't we should be an eye-opener for the

heads of these government agencies.

The government is lucky that we have only one Tatlo Atlay in the Philippines—for now.

To the officials of San Jose and Sitio Vilma Kanan: Listen to Emma, act on her concerns. If you don't, soon her act will be replicated not only in Batangas but all over the country, in places where the officials are all busy preparing for the coming elections.

—HENTOR B. REARES JR.
IBC, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Malate, Manila

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3 Gang Extension Cord
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20% OFF
ALL
Polish power
Tire Black

Dynakin
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(MB14 ESP)
NOW ONLY
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10% OFF
ALL
Castrol
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BUY 1 TAKE 1
Liquid Handsoap
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Across the NATION

Bulacan execs raise concern on dam

AMGAT DAM in Norzagaray, Bulacan. PHOTOGRAPH

CITY OF MALOLOS—BULACAN OFFICIALS have urged national agencies to thoroughly study the condition of Angat Dam in Norzagaray town to assure residents of its structural safety following reports of cracks found in some sections of the dam.

Vice Gov. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado said he had asked Administrator Diosdado Jose Alibalo, of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS), to attend a hearing of the provincial board to address questions and fears on the supposed damage in the dam, which supplies water to Metro Manila.

Sy-Alvarado said he did not wish to create alarm and sow fear among Bulakenyan on the possible bursting of the facility.

"We are not panicking. [Alvarado] assured us here. While there is no doubt Angat Dam ran still last for 50 to 60 years more, still, the reported cracks have to be repaired now," he said.

Gov. Joselito Mendoza and other Bulacan officials inspected the facility on Sunday and found no cracks in the dam.

"Based on what we saw and the information given to us by experts, especially by Napocor officials, Bulakenyan have nothing to worry about. I am personally convinced that there is no crack, and that Angat Dam is not an accident waiting to happen," he said.

But Mendoza urged agencies concerned to check the dam at the Napocor compound in Barangay Bitbit in Norzagaray.

Sy-Alvarado said his privilege speech on the condition of the dam was based on documents and reports from the MWSS and from information from the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology that the Angat fault line on the Marikina fault.

Board Member Cristeton Martinez urged local officials should not speculate on the dam's condition because that may best left to experts.

Sy-Alvarado raised the issue on the stability of the Angat Dam, which was built in 1968, when he assailed the construction of the Laiban Dam in Real.

The Laiban Dam is envisioned to become an alternative supplier of water to Rizal and Metro Manila.

"Instead of building a dam in Tanay, Rizal, the government should save the lives of millions of residents of Bulacan from danger. The cracks and other debris should be repaired and illegal logging and quarrying activities in the Sierra Madre and Angat River should be stopped," he said.

Rodolfo Guzman, Napocor general manager for its Angat hydroelectric power plant, said the reported "cracks" is actually traces of seepage. Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon

NEWSBRIEFS

■ ZAMBOANGA CITY

Pillbox explodes in Jolo

A PILLBOX exploded at the Jolo pier on Monday as American forces and Filipino soldiers were unloading supplies at the wharf.

Maj. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, Western Mindanao Command chief, however, said no one was injured in the explosion in front of the detachment manned by the Joint Special Operations Force.

Dolorfino said the pillbox was lobbed from a moped.

But Mindanao State University professor Octavio Dinampo said the blast was so strong that he felt it in Indanan town, or some 4 km away.

"The ground [was] jolted," he said. Jolly C. Mendoza, Inquirer Mindanao

■ SIDAPAWAN CITY

MILF rebels kill soldier

A SOLDIER was killed while a still unidentified militiaman was ambushed when unleashed by suspected Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels in Mlang, North Cotabato, on Thursday, Mlang Mayor Joselito Piñol said.

Piñol said Sgt. Tani Sugang, of the Army's 39th Infantry Battalion, was discharging a rifle in a motorcycle with the militiaman when they were waylaid in Barangay Dungguan.

Sugang died instantly while the militiaman was rushed to a hospital. Carlo Aguanza, Jr. and John Mendoza

■ CAVITE

2 die in house collapse

A MAN and his daughter were killed while three other family members were injured when their house collapsed in Barangay Anabiao in Silang town early Sunday.

Silang police chief, Supt. Danilo Buenbicho, said Milton Barromeo, 27, and his 4-year-old child Ardella, were sleeping early Sunday when the walls of the house gave way and buried them. Rescuers pulled them out of the debris.

Barromeo's common-law wife, Joan Andalena, and their two other children—Angel, 7, and Angela, 5—suffer serious injuries and were brought to hospital in Trece Martires City.

Insp. Samuel Fernandez said the "crew should have been off-limits to dumbings." Marlon Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

Body found in river

THE BODY of a still unidentified man was found floating in a river in Kawit, Cavite, Thursday, police said.

The body, clad in white shirt and short pants was described to be 5'7" in height and fair in complexion.

A fishing boat found the body in a river in Cawit-Bendita in Kawit at around 8:45 a.m., said Kawit police chief PSI Jonn Paul Mellora. Marlon Cinco, Inquirer Southern Luzon

GUAM SENATORS SBMA Administrator Armand Arreza (left) and BCDA Chair Feliciano Salonga (second from left) escort Guam senators Judith Guerrero (first from right) and Ray Respicio (second from right) who were in Subic to discuss the training of thousands of Filipino workers needed in the US military buildup in Guam. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CIRCULAR NO. 662
Series of 2009

Subject: **Procedures on Collection of Penalties from Banks and Other BSP-Supervised Entities**

Pursuant to Monetary Board Resolution No. 1228 dated 27 August 2009, the procedures on collection of penalties from banks and other BSP-supervised entities are hereby amended.

Section 1. Item "c" of Subsection 3008.1 of the Manual of Regulations for Banks (MORB) is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "c. ***Additional charge for late payment of monetary penalty.*** Late payment of monetary penalty shall be subject to an additional charge of six percent (6%) per annum to be reckoned from the banking day immediately following the day said penalty becomes due and payable up to the time of actual payment. xxx."

The foregoing amendment likewise amends Subsection 4600Q.1.c of the Manual of Regulations for Non-Bank Financial Institutions (MORNBFI), except that "banking day" shall be replaced by "business day".

Section 2. The procedures on collection of penalties from banks under Appendix 20 of the MORB are hereby amended, to read as follows:

> **"PROCEDURES ON COLLECTION OF FINES/PENALTIES FROM BANKS AND/OR DIRECTORS/OFFICERS OF BANKS**
> **(Appendix to Subsecs. 8009.1 and 9309.2)**
>
> "For uniform implementation of the regulations on collection of fines/ penalties from banks and/or directors/officers of banks, the following procedures shall be observed:
>
> "1. Upon approval of the fines/penalties by the Governor/Monetary Board, the Department/Office concerned shall send the Statement of Account (SOA)/billing letter to the bank with an advice that the penalty should be paid in full within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of SOA/billing letter. For entities which maintain demand deposit account (DDA) with BSP, the amount of the penalty/ies shall be automatically debited from the bank's DDA with the BSP after the lapse of the fifteen (15)-calendar day period. The bank shall likewise be advised that penalty or portion thereof which remained unpaid after the lapse of said fifteen (15)-day period shall be subject to additional charge of six percent (6%) per annum reckoned from the banking day immediately following the end of the fifteen (15)-day period up to the day of actual payment.
>
> "2. On the banking day immediately following the end of said fifteen (15)-day period, unpaid penalties shall be automatically debited, without additional charge, against the bank's DDA with the BSP by the Comptrollership Task Force (CoSS) based on the amount transmitting the Department/Office concerned after final confirming with the CoSS the sufficiency of the bank's DDA balance to cover the amount of the penalty.
>
> "3. If, based on its confirmation with the CoSS, the Department/Office concerned received information that the bank's DDA balance is insufficient to cover the amount of the penalty, it shall accordingly advise and request the bank to immediately fund its DDA.
>
> "4. As soon as it is funded, the bank's DDA shall be debited by the CoSS for the amount of the penalty, plus the six percent (6%) additional charge for late payment of the penalty reckoned from the banking day immediately following the end of the fifteen (15)-day period up to the day of actual payment, based on the amount cleared by the Department/ Office concerned.
>
> "5. Payment by thrift, rural or cooperative banks of penalty, plus the additional charge if any by check or demand draft shall be made directly to the BSP Cash Department or to BSP Regional Cash Units in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 9309.6.
>
> "6. In the case of penalty/ies imposed on bank directors/officers, said directors/officers shall be advised by the Department/Office concerned to pay within fifteen (15) calendar days from receipt of the SOA/billing letter directly to the BSP in the form of cash or check and in accordance with the provisions of Subsection 9309.6. Penalty or portion thereof which remained unpaid after the lapse of said fifteen (15)-day period shall also be subject to additional charge of six percent (6%) per annum reckoned from the banking day immediately following the end of the fifteen (15)-day period up to the day of actual payment."

The foregoing procedural guidelines on the collection of penalties from banks and/or directors/officers of banks are hereby made applicable to quasi-banks and/or directors/officers of quasi-banks, and correspondingly included as Appendix Q-22 of the MORNBFI, except that "bank" shall be replaced by "quasi-bank", "banking day" shall be replaced by "business day", and "Subsections X805.1, X805.2 and X805.4" shall be replaced by "Subsections 4805Q.1, 4805Q.2, and 4805Q.3", respectively.

Section 3. The last paragraph of Subsection 4602Q.2 of the Manual of Regulations for Non-Bank Financial Institutions (MORNBFI) on payment of fines is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "For the purpose of this Section, business day means a day on which the BSP head office and the head office of the quasi-bank are open for business. For uniform implementation of the above regulations, the procedural guidelines embodied in Appendix Q-22 shall be observed."

Section 4. Subsection X809.4 of the MORB on check-demand draft payments to the Bangko Sentral of thrift, rural and cooperative banks, is hereby amended to read as follows:

> "Thrift, Rural and Coop Banks shall make all check and demand draft payments for transactions other than those required to be paid through the banks' DDA either to the BSP Cash Department or to BSP Regional Cash Units. Such payments shall be accompanied by appropriate payment form as shown in Appendix 20. Payments not accompanied by the required payment forms shall be presumed to be additions to reserves and shall be credited to the demand deposit account of the paying bank.
>
> "Check payments shall be value dated when the check is cleared."

The foregoing amendment is likewise made applicable to Subsection 4602Q.3 of the MORNBFI, except that "Thrift, Rural and Coop Banks" or "bank" shall be replaced by "quasi-bank", and "Appendix 20" shall be replaced by "Appendix Q-22a".

Section 5. The Pro forma Payment Form, which is shown in Appendix 20 of the MORB, is hereby revised as shown in the Annex II of this Circular. Appendix Q-22 of the MORNBFI, which is hereby renumbered as Appendix Q-22a, is also amended accordingly.

Section 6. The foregoing provisions are also adopted for non-stock savings and loan associations, pawnshops and non-bank financial institutions, and hereby added to the provisions of Subsection 4601S.1.c/4601P1.1.c/4602P4.1.c of the MORNBFI on guidelines on the imposition of monetary penalties and payment of penalties or fines.

Section 7. This Circular shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

For the Monetary Board:

(Sgd.) **AMANDO M. TETANGCO, JR.**
Governor

08 September 2009

Note:
A copy of this signed document and its annex may be downloaded from the BSP website: www.bsp.gov.ph under "Regulations/Circulars"

GMO opponents start hunger strike in Negros capitol

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—MEMBERS of a group opposing the lifting of a ban on genetically modified organisms (GMO) in Negros Occidental started a hunger strike in front of the provincial capitol on Tuesday.

At least 18 members of the Green Alert group pitched tents just as provincial officials prepared amendments to an ordinance that bans the entry of GMOs into Negros.

"We would rather starve than eat poison," the GA protesters said.

"We will only end our hunger strike if the provincial government will listen to our call not to lift the ban on GMOs," said Joaquin Mojica, a member of the group and among those who went on hunger strike.

Mojica said members of the group would only drink water during the strike and sleep in tents in front of the capitol building at night.

Livestock and poultry growers have rallied for the lifting of the ban.

Group slams deluge of coal power plants

By Alcuin Papa

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS yesterday called on government to impose a moratorium on coal power plant projects.

In a press conference joining the groups, led by the Philippine Climate Watch Alliance (PCWA), said operations of coal power plants have been proven to cause environmental degradation and bring health risks to communities near them.

Maggie Nolasco, spokesperson of PCWA, said coal has been identified as the dirtiest source of energy and a major contributor to pollution and global warming.

"It is alarming that majority of the power plants that are poised to be constructed in the country are coal-fired, at the same time the government is very generous in issuing coal-mining permits to private corporations," said Nolasco.

She said while nine coal-fired power plants in operation, another nine are set to go on line soon.

The nine coal-fired power plants in operation and those were identified by the PCWA as the 300-megawatt expansion of a power plant in Ilaya, Batangas; the 100-megawatt plant in Concepcion, Iloilo; the 150-megawatt plant in Iloilo City; a 200-megawatt plant each in Naga and Toledo City in Cebu; the expansion of a 300-megawatt plant in Masinloc, Zambales; another 300-megawatt plant in Olongapo, Zambales; a 135-megawatt plant in Sultan Kudarat, and a 200-megawatt plant in Surigao.

Nolasco said the government has issued 41 coal-mining contracts.

Clemente Bautista, secretary general of the Kalikasan People's Network for the Environment (Kalikasan PNE), said despite President Macapagal-Arroyo's boast in her last State of the Nation Address (Sona) that the country has been reducing its dependence on fossil fuel-fired power plants, the Arroyo administration has been actively promoting the use of coal-fired power plants.

"The Arroyo government boasts of having a strong commitment in combating climate change and developing our renewable energies. However, these coal projects show that President Arroyo continues to prioritize the interest and multi-billion dollar coal projects of foreign and private corporations and not that of the Filipino people and the environment," Bautista added.

Citing figures from the Department of Energy, the PCWA said coal power plants contribute 36 percent of the total carbon emission of the energy industry.

During the Arroyo administration, coal importation, production and consumption reached record high and demand is expected to increase in the next five years.

GENERATOR sets are up for sale in Iloilo City as power producers in the area insist the only way for ample electricity was through coal and without coal, power shortage in some parts of Visayas would persist.

LARRY ALEJANDRINO/INQUIRER VISAYAS

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NFA to buy 3.4M bags of palay in C. Luzon

GABANATUAN CITY—The National Food Authority (NFA) has allotted P289 million for palay buying in Central Luzon from September to December this year, assuring local farmers that their harvests would be bought at higher prices.

Joseph de la Cruz, NFA regional director, said the amount would be able to buy 3.4 million bags of palay.

He said this estimate combined with current NFA stock would be enough to feed 10 million people in Central Luzon.

He said his office is setting up 60 buying stations and 15 mobile procurement teams to assist farmers.

De la Cruz said the NFA buys palay at P17 a kilogram.

Edelina Alejandro, NFA manager for Nueva Ecija, said farmers would seek out farmers. Abelardo Roque, Inquirer Central Luzon

Mayon blows ash thrice as 24-hour alert raised

LEGAZPI CITY—MAYON ELEVATED into the alert early Tuesday, prompting authorities to issue a new 24-hour alert to residents of communities surrounding the volcano.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) said Mayon blew ash starting past 5 a.m. on Tuesday.

The explosions, according to resident volcanologist Ed Laguerta, produced "a brownish ash column that rose to a maximum height of about 700 meters."

Laguerta said 11 earthquakes were recorded on the same day, which incidental that magma was rising.

Residents living near the slopes described hearing what they said was a "shout" followed by two more sounds which they said were similar to that of a fart.

The minor explosions prompted Albay Gov. Joey Salceda, chair of the provincial disaster coordinating council, to direct smaller disaster councils to lower its 24-hour high level of alert.

The governor directed the councils to prepare to evacuate residents if things get worse.

Phivolcs, however, kept alert level 2 in place, which means minor ash explosions were likely.

Phivolcs removed a strict off-limits order inside a 6-km danger zone and a 7-km extended danger zone.

Sulfur dioxide emissions, which meant blowing merrily along on the coast, fell to 50 tons a day from a previous reading of 810 tons per day last Sept. 12.

Villagers were also advised to stay away from active river channels and areas tagged as lahar prone.

Last month, scientists kept watch for a feared collapse of a portion of Mayon's crater, which holds an estimated 200,000 cubic feet of rocks.

AFTER THREE months of being on alert level 2 (moderate unrest), three ash explosions occurred on the crater of Mayon on Tuesday.

Mayon Volcano, famous for its nearly perfect conical shape, has a height of over 2,400 meters.

The volcano, said to be the most active in the country, has erupted at least 30 times since 1616. Its worst eruption, learned Legazpi town said killed 1,200 people in 1814. An eruption in 1993 killed more than 70 farmers.

Mayon erupted again in 2006. Roy Stand, Inquirer Southern Luzon and Alcuin Papa in Manila

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

A mix of ecology, culture, business

By Maurice Malanes
Tabloy Bergsat

WINACA has a stable of performing artists who showcase the rich culture of the Cordillera

A CORDILLERA hut blends with the natural environment in Winaca.

LIKE A 100-YEAR-OLD MAN, Baguio City, which just celebrated its centenary, must be sought for its wisdom in urban development.

But the traffic, land zoning, squatting woes, garbage and several business district congestion are getting harder to manage than ever. The city host-out of a colonial American summer and mining haven in neighboring Benguet seems at the turn of the century is no longer seen as a model for urban development.

So couple Wilson and Narda Capuyan made a wise move when they embarked on a business enterprise, which is many and different from the usual sights and smell of an already congested place.

Just more than a 30-minute drive from Baguio is the Capuyans' Winaca Eco-Cultural Village, a 11-hectare forested enclave in Tabloy town in Benguet, which mixes ecology, healthy dining, Cordillera culture, adventure and pure, clean fun.

They acquired a five-hectare property in 1984, which was foreclosed by a bank, until they eventually bought the adjoining lots, which totals forested cool oasis.

Here, birds chirp, cicadas and crickets sing, a country spring and brook murmur, and trees and flowers sway with the wind.

Terraced fields soon sprouted to organic gardens, which were with lettuce, carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage and herbs, such as coriander, parsley, mint and wheat grass.

Interspersed with some of the trees are bamboo trees, native lemons and oranges.

These gardens and orchards supply the ingredients of organic recipes served in delicacy restaurant within the eco-cultural village.

Products from the gardens are also sold at the couple's other business outlets, such as Native Trading Center in Baguio. The owners also has a restaurant, which features its vegetables from the eco-cultural village.

Elderly visitors may just want to relax and chat over cups of Arabica coffee or glasses of urban grass or sweet juice after a meal at the village's café and restaurant.

But the Capuyans made sure the young would enjoy some adventure at the hiking trail, foraging/biking and zoos.

Both young and old guests can also be treated to, if not participate in, cultural shows at a natural amphitheater.

Guests can learn to sing or dance Cordillera icons and dances to the beat and rhythm of drums and gongs.

The village has a place for those who want to energize before they retire at their tents, which they can install in a camping ground.

Or they can share poems, puzzles, prayers and promises with an Igorot circle around an evening bonfire at a dip-up in circular morning rescue where people can sit on stones in the yard of a Bagada hut.

In December last year, Wilson transported in the village the grass-thatched hut, where he was born 62 years ago in Bagada town in Mt. Province. He and his workers reconstructed the digs-up, where, as a boy, he learned to stories and advice from elders.

He bought other native huts from Benguet, Ifugao and Kalinga. He seeks to complete a representation of the traditional houses from each of the Cordillera provinces, including Abra and Apayao.

"Winaca" means "bound by vine" (In our word, sosa or soba, in the Ibaloi/ancy term for vine). Winaca also binds the first syllables of the Capuyans' first names and surnames.

But Boni's more to Winaca, which, as elder says, represents the business and development philosophy of the Capuyans.

"The Winaca philosophy of human living pursues an developing human resources, building environment-friendly communities and establishing a sense of that culture to which the young can trace their roots," says Wendell Bilot, an elder and cultural consultant of the Capuyans.

He claims that the Capuyans is coming from humble roots and who developed a "desire to reach discipline."

"As true disciples of Kabunian (Igorot term for God) spiritualty, Wilson and Narda are responsible tenants in the land," says Bilot.

Wilson, an engineer, is guided by what Bilot calls the "Winaca formula" of development.

The eco-cultural village is also a real estate business as partners of the area are up for sale for those who wish to build their homes or rest houses within the forested enclave.

But there are conditions and terms for those seeking to build their homes here. One is that Winaca management takes care of the constructions so it ensures that "green architecture and engineering" are followed, says Wilson.

This means avoiding cutting trees and moving earth when building a house. A lot must be at least 750 square meters and a house must be built only on a small portion. The bigger portion must be allowed to trees and other vegetation, says Wilson.

Houses cannot also be built in portions with steep slopes. These are instead as natural part of the enclave's forest area.

As part of his "green architecture," Wilson incorporates indigenous materials, such as trees made for ceiling and as accents for walls and cabinets and other furnitures.

Narda, a native of Besao town, also in Mt. Province, seeks to continue promoting Igorot weaving and other crafts by employing weavers right in the village.

This initiative continues the success story of Narda's Handwoven Arts and Crafts, which started in 1976 in La Trinidad, Benguet. From weaving blankets from recycled acrylic yarns, Narda moved on to weaving items for home furnishing, fashion and accessories.

UAAP ogbiraldo Salva suspension

LAKAN COMMISSIONER JOE LIM FESTEJOAP IEPHELO THE ONE-game suspension slapped on Mindoro's backup big man Nico Salva for punching Far Eastern U guard Jimi Enolfal in the game won by the Blue Eagles, 71-72, last Saturday. Salva, who averages 8.7 points and 3.9 rebounds, will serve his suspension during the Blue Eagles' Final Four duel against the University of Santo Tomas on Sunday. *Jaymiko M. Papa*

Editor Teddyboy B. Molmisa • Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa

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Argentinian claims first Grand Slam

SAN Marcos del Pozo can now hold his head high after beating Roger Federer in the US Open final and hoisting his first Grand Slam trophy. AFP

NEW YORK—ROGER FEDERER, owner of the most Grand Slam titles in history and maybe the best player of all time, finally lost at the US Open. But not to Rafael Nadal, Andy Roddick or even Andy Murray.

Rather, it was 16th-seeded Juan Martin del Potro, the 6-foot-6 (1.98-meter) Argentine with the big serve and the biggest forehand, who pounced as Federer lingered to a high via a 3-6, 7-6 (7), 4-6, 7-6 (4), 6-2 upset victory Monday to his first Grand Slam final.

"It's difficult to explain this moment," del Potro said.

Inexplicable.

That's another way to describe the loss of the top-ranked Federer, who was two points away from victory in the fourth set in a windy Arthur Ashe Stadium but couldn't get his serve to click and had no answer for Del Potro's forehand.

Then ended a streak of 40 straight wins for Federer at Flushing Meadows and the quest to become the first person to win six straight titles at America's Grand Slam since Bill Tilden in the 1920s.

"How was great. How was great, too," Federer said. "He would have been a dream, too. Can't have them all."

Federer beat everyone who got through to him in his five straight US Open final victories: Roddick, Murray, Andre Agassi, Lleyton Hewitt, Novak Djokovic. Big hitters, throne players, youngsters, veterans. Everyone. Until he met up with the lanky player from Argentina, nine days away from his 21st birthday.

"When I would have a dream, it was to win the US Open, and the other one is to be like Roger," Del Potro said. "Now is done."

Del Potro had 37 forehand winners—well with the forehand working so well, Del Potro sets out early to ramp up his powerful serve, trusted, he simply spun it in, got himself into a rally then waited for his chance to strike.

Federer, meanwhile, couldn't get his first serve on track. He got only 50 percent into play after averaging about 66 percent through his five six matches.

That gave him less time to position, and as the match built up, it became more than just physical. A smooth critic of the review system used in tennis, he lashed out at the chair umpire during a disagreement for allowing Del Pozo to challenge a call well after the point was over.

"Don't tell me to be quiet, OK? When I want to talk, I talk. I don't give a (expletive) what he said," Federer said to a profanity-punctuated exchange picked up by the TV microphone.

It wasn't exactly the Serena Williams tirade in the women's semifinals that overtook the tournament during a wild weekend of matches that spilled into Monday—one that also frustrated new multi-st fits Clijsters returning to the sport to win the women's title.

But it was embarrassing, considering Federer's brilliance that on the way drawn a break early, falling behind, 3-0.

"I thought he moved better, held earlier, I got broken; then he got the 3-0 lead. Pretty obvious," Federer said, not bothering to expand on the reasons for his defeat.

His empty stare at the end was much different than the semifilled reaction at the Australian Open to start the year, when he lost to Nadal in five sets and was left still seeking Grand Slam title No. 14 to tie Pete Sampras for the record.

Federer got that at the French Open, then broke the record at Wimbledon for the most career majors.

"I think this is easy to get over just because I've had the most amazing summers," he said. "I cried everything, you know. Didn't work. He played well and in the end it was a tough fifth set. But life goes on, his problem."

Serena says sorry—and little else

NEW YORK—SERENA WILLIAMS APOLOgized Monday for what she called her "inappropriate outburst" during her semifinal loss to Kim Clijsters at the US Open.

Williams was short on contrition in the postmatch news conference after her penalty-laced, finger-pointing tirade at a line judge Saturday night—and again in a composed statement Sunday.

"I want to sincerely apologize FIRST to the fans, tournament, Kim Clijsters, the USTA and mainly tennis fans everywhere for my inappropriate outburst," Williams' latest statement said.

It was released by the US Tennis Association about a half hour before Williams and her sister, Venus, played in the women's doubles final, which they won for their 11th Grand Slam title as a team.

"I'm a woman of great pride, hard-tried-ingring, and I admit when I'm wrong," her written statement said. "I need to make it clear to all young people that I handled myself inappropriately and it's not the way to act—win or lose, good call or bad call is my sport, in any manner."

Williams could have faced $10,000 Sunday for unsportsmanlike conduct and could face further penalties...including a higher fine and a possible suspension—for what US Open tournament director Jim Curley described as her "threatening manner."

The Williams sisters beat defending champions Cara Black and Liezel Huber, 6-2, 6-3, at Arthur Ashe Stadium for US Open doubles championships since 1999.

ESPN2's Patrick McEnroe gave her an opening to reinstate her apology. Williams responded, "I think I said it all."

When McEnroe followed up by asking whether anything changed over the past 24 hours—apparently a reference to the second set's apology—Williams bristled.

"No one understand. "What I think the crowd is saying is, 'Patrick, let's move on,'" evening applause. AP

Toyota quits Liga; 'guest' fills vacancy

LUCBAN CITY—THE SMART LIGA PILIPinas Conference III tour-elimination phase opens the Quezon Province Leg today (Sept. 16) with the three top finishers of last conference and a brand-new team from the south debuting at the Quezon Convention Center.

Host Quezon Bed Offers of Gov Rafty Nantes are all set to face the challenge of visiting two-leg winner M. Distiller Kwarta Padala Cebu Tribes, the defending national champion Mindoro Oriental Mensers and guest team EBE Aguspas Rapids.

The Batangas-based Rapids, who are applying to become a regular member of Liga Pilipinas, have taken over the slot vacated by the Toyota Otsuka Tribes which announced last week that it was dropping their last three legs of the Liga run due to "unavoidable circumstances."

Due to league rules that a team must complete all of their four tour legs to become an regular saver member, the Aguspas Rapids will be participating only as a guest team in their next three legs, one of which will be played in their home turf on Oct. 23.

The Red Oilers have drawn the Mensers for their opening assignment at 6 p.m., hoping to settle an old score against their semifinal tournament last conference.

MANNY Pacquiao (left) stands on a stool as he poses with Los Angeles Lakers forward Ron Artest and Miguel Cotto (right). AFP

PACQUIAO-COTTO

'It's going to be a tactical fight'

BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA—MANNY PACquiao, widely viewed as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world, is facing a "tactical fight" when he challenges Miguel Cotto for the WBO welterweight title in November.

Although the Filipino icon holds a significant speed advantage over the Puerto Rican, he has great respect for Cotto's punishing power, strength and defensive prowess.

"This will be my toughest test as a professional boxer," Pacquiao, 30, told a news conference at a Beverly Hills hotel on Monday. "I know he is an excellent, smart fighter and a great world champion."

"We also need to use our own advantage over Cotto," added the southpaw, who cemented his status as the sport's premier fighter with convincing second-round knockout of Britain's Ricky Hatton in May to claim the IBO light welterweight crown.

"Everybody knows that I am faster than Cotto so here can I use that speed in the fight? I will do my best in this fight to capture my seventh title belt."

Pacquiao has a glittering career record of 49-3-2 featuring 37 knockouts, but his trainer Freddie Roach predicted the Sto. Tomas-born Filipino would go the full distance.

"It's going to be a much more tactical fight than people think because he (Cotto) is a very smart fighter," Roach said.

"It's [going to be about] who can implement their game plan and use it to the fullest advantage.

"I think this is going to be a 12-round fight, no knockout. This guy (Cotto) is very resilient. If a knockout comes, it comes but if you go out there looking for a knockout, you might get caught yourself. We have to be very careful."

Cotto, who retained his WBO title with a gruelling split decision win over Ghana's Joshua Clottey in June, left his more seasoned defense would interfere much Pacquiao's speed.

"When you have good defense, you can stop speed," said the 28-year-old, 34-1 with 27 KOs.

"I don't know if the Pacquiao I'm ready to be beaten but I am in the prime of my career. I'm going to use every kind of tool I have in my repertoire.

"He has fought a lot of tough fighters but never one like this," added Cotto, who has held a world title in every year since 2004.

Pacquiao, a winner of world titles in six different weight divisions ranging from 112 to 140 pounds, is being tipped as the favorite to win. Reuters

RP Cuppers counting on court familiarity

By Cedrik F. Tejero

EXPECT NO LET-UP FROM THE Philippine Team when it battles New Zealand in their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania Group II third round tie starting Friday at the Philippine Columbian Association tennis court in Manila.

Promotion to Group I is not make in the air and RP team officials are confident that the familiarity of the surface and homecourt support will help spell the difference for the hosts.

"They are a tough team," reigning captain Cielo Caunan said of the Filipino at the PSA Forum at the Shakey's 121 former branch yesterday.

"But we are playing on our own turf and the knowledge of the surface and home court advantage will certainly help us."

The Filipinos hold a 2-1 head-to-head edge over the Kiwis. Their last meeting ended with the Filipinos winning, 4-1, in a Group II semifinal tie in a carpet surface in New Zealand.

Randy Villanueva, the Philippine Tennis Association Davis Cup coordinator, said they are paying tribute to Ben Berrigan "Manny" Aquino Jr. and Presidente Cory Aquino this trip by wearing yellow playing uniforms.

"It's not way of honoring them because they have sacrificed a lot for the country," said Villanueva, noting that members of the Aquino family have been invited to watch the tie that ends on Sunday.

Cecil Mamiit, ranked 481 in the world, will spearhead the RP Davis Cuppers along with Treat Conrad Huey, who also played an important role in the victories over Hong Kong and Pakistan in the earlier rounds.

The tie will mark the return of veteran Johnny Arcilla and the debut of RP No. 3 Oliver Anzures in the squad. The duo replaced JC Dizon and Francis Casey Alcantara who bagged off from the team due to various reasons.

New Zealand nominated CJ Jones,

TREAT Huey (left) and Cecil Mamiit will lead the RP squad.

Daniel King-Turner, Jose Ruben Stochiti for the tie against the Philippines, which begins at 10 a.m. Friday.

Mamiit is the highest ranked Filipino, a four-time PCA Open champion.

"I know how hard Johnny works," Mamiit said of his teammate, who toughened up for the tournament by serving action in the India Pacific FE and ITF tournaments in New Delhi, India.

"I'm hungry to win," said Arcilla.

"We will play aggressive," Mamiit said. "It will be up to them to make the adjustments. We can't allow them to get into a rhythm."

Xavier third in Pasarelle

A CONFIDENT XAVIER SCHOOL FOUNDto need to field star player Javan Ting and still demolished Ateneo de Lourdes School, 118-70 to capture third place in the Pasarelle division of the UAP Pasarelle men's basketball tournament at the Rizalista gym.

Ting was in civilian clothing and sat in the bench as teammates Paulo Miguel Cabeza, Francis Kevin Yee, Jose Neale Sumerano, Allwin Ondoy and Mason Ayuste carried the fight for the Stallions by combining for 77 points.

Xavier Dame of Greater Manila defeated Xavier's 500 squad, 54-47, to claim third place in that class of the Mini-tournament season organized by the Best Center Basketball Efficiency and Scientific Training Center).

Ateneo and La Salle will dispute the UAP championship on Sunday, also at the Ateneo Pasarelle gym.

Sto. Nino and La Salle Green Hills will clash for the Pasarelle crown. Games start at 9 am.

Pasarelle player Jason Villanueva, a first Grade graduate, who was a PBA championship series host player-awarder, will grace the championship games and will help award the trophies to the winners.

COA reprieve: Monico out to beat plunder rap

PUENTEVELLA

By Cedrik F. Tapay

FACING PLUNDER CHARGES, BACOLOD Rep. Monico Puentevella yesterday vowed to "marshall and reconstruct" the liquidation report of the Bacolod-Kabankalan Urban Development Committee (Buenc) within the 45-day extension granted him Monday by the Commission on Audit.

But the head of PSC legal team, Atty. Bill Ilarmo, branded the move as a "delaying tactic" to impede the progress of the case filed against Puentevella, who is accused of failing to liquidate the PSC's P58.5 million aid to the Buenc for the staging of the 22nd SEA Games.

Ilarmo said they are leaving the matter up to the DOJ.

"It doesn't matter to us anymore," said Ilarmo. "We have already given him four years to liquidate."

Puentevella, the incumbent chair of the Philippine Olympic Committee, who also headed the Buenc, got the nephew a few hours after the PSC filed the case against him Monday for violation of Republic Act 7080.

"Rest assured that the representation and Buenc are doing everything possible to again complete our liquidation report," he told COA chair Reynaldo Villar in a letter Monday.

Puentevella claimed that the papers and documentation that were earlier submitted were lost for a period of at least six months either to the possession of the PSC or COA.

The Bacolod congressman's earlier liquidation report was branded by the PSC as "unfairly irregular and unacceptable under government rules and regulations."

Puentevella, the complaint said, also took advantage of his position when he deposited the amount to his personal bank account.

"We have not yet received any communication from DOJ nor have we received the copy of the [pleaded] complaint," Puentevella said in a text message to the Inquirer.

Norman's most valuable Blue Eagle

IN HUDDLE
Mark Cardo

IT HASN'T HAPpened yet but Ateneo Blue Eagles coach Norman Black is already feeling a great loss.

Next season, Ateneo Rodeo, the team's most dependable defensive player, will no longer be with the Eagles, and Norman will surely miss him.

Rico is graduating from college in Manila. He will also have completed his five years of collegiate basketball.

Many teams in the PBA have been eyeing him with interest and he may be moving on to the pro league next year.

* * *

Four years ago, Rodeo caught Norman's attention while playing for West Negros University in the University Games.

Almost participated every year in the tournament, usually staged in the South, together the Eagles, especially the new ones, the chance to play in an organized tournament without the usual distractions is the big allure.

Norman recalls Rodeo as a lanky 6-foot-6, 175-pounder whose skills and playing ethic were already very visible at that time.

Night then and there, he talked to the cager about the possibility of relocating to Manila and playing for a Big City team like the Ateneo Blue Eagles.

It took Norman finally get the blessings of Rodeo's family and superiors at Western Negros U.

Similar to a cousin's dream, according to Norman.

* * *

I have never heard Norman speak as highly of a player, but perhaps Rodeo deserves all of the attention.

He was the UAAP Finals MVP last year and while his statistics may not be enough to lead him any of the individual awards this year, Rodeo is, according to Norman, without a doubt a true MVP —Ateneo Valuable Player.

Aside from his outstanding attitude, Noy is great floor general by the coach for his diligence, hard work and indomitable spirit.

"If you look up the meaning of 'team player' in the dictionary, you'll see Noy's face there," said Norman, playing the cager the highest tribute.

Noy won the respect and admiration of just about everybody when they found out that he had been playing his last season games with a fractured hand. He insisted on playing despite the risk of further injury and the pain.

"We said it was just a sprain. The hand was wrapped in bandage and no one could tell from the way he played that his hand was fractured," Norman disclosed.

Ateneo coach Norman headed despite the excruciating trauma.

"Now it's as good as new," said Norman, who is looking forward to defending Ateneo's title and to seeing Noy playing his usual 120 percent.

While injured, he logged in only 27 minutes per game, but the Blue Eagles managed to make Finals.

"He's one of the top defensive players in the UAAP," said the Ateneo's Jasmine Hays, UAAP press corps president. "His numbers may have slightly dipped this season but we learned just recently that he'd been playing with a fractured hand. Shows you just how tough he is."

* * *

Does boxer Juan Manuel Marquez really drink his urine, believing that it gives him power and energy to defeat his foes?

Maybe one him do it on the program 24/7 on HBO, but it would just be a gimmick. Apparently he has been drinking his urine for a long time or even before, one of valuable man against Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas last year.

I know and I have read about this kind of therapy, which is believed to cure certain types of diseases, but I thought it was just old miners' tale.

So what has lifted Marquez above his opponents, got to say? "Farfetch. I don't want to fight with your pee mouth!"

SAN BEDA'S Jay-R Taganas wards off Jamie Sison of Jose Rizal U in the two teams' first round game won by the Red Lions.
ALBERT MALVEDA

San Beda, JRU in key scuffle

Final 4 bonus on the line today

By Cedrik F. Tapay

SAN BEDA BATTLES JOSE RIZAL U today in a match that could pretty much determine which team gets one of the two twice-to-beat incentives in the Final Four of the 85th NCAA basketball tournament at the FIBAG Flying V Arena in San Juan.

The Lions entered 1st a mammoth (9-1) victory over the Bombers in the first round and another highly physical duel is expected when last season's finalists clash again at 4 p.m.

"It's always tough playing JRU," said San Beda coach Franklin Lim. "What's important is that we will go into the game sharp, prepared and with a mindset that we'll take the game."

San Beda is coming off an 80-72 victory over Arellano U last week for its 12th straight win and 13th overall in 14 outings.

Jose Rizal is also coming off a win over the host of an 83-66 rout over Final Four hopeful Lyceum on Friday.

Letran collides with Perpetual Help in the other game at 2 p.m. with the Knights seeking at least a playoff for the last Final Four berth.

Despite a 10-5 record with three games remaining in their schedule, the Knights are still handicapped to beat the already-eliminated Altas with fifth-ranked team Arellano (7-7) still in the hunt for the last Final Four slot.

The Bombers found the answer to knockout rookie Jiolan Taneed, who exploited matchup problems on the way to dishing out a career best 31 points and seven blocks in San Beda's first-round victory last Aug. 16.

"If I could draw huge efforts from my big men again, we'll have a chance at contending, if not crapping Baden Daniel," said Jose Rizal coach Ariel Vanguardia.

JRU's rookie center Jiamer Jee, whose matchup with Taneed could provide another subplot in the encounter, remains doubtful with a wrenching knee injury.

With James Sena and Marvin Hayes playing host, Vanguardia is looking for a stronger effort from John Lopez, who scored 19 against Taneed, and John Wilson, the league's third best scorer with 20 points per outing.

Ababa shoots 73 as RP trails S. Korea by 13

PHOMBEL AMBA SHOT A GUEVEN ONE-over-par 73 to fashion the Philippines' fourth-best team score (289) as the start of the Nomura Cup passed by four South Korea at the Saraswood Country Club in Gyeonggi-do yesterday.

The three other Filipinos turned in uneven rounds, however, as reigning regional champ Mhark Fernandez and Steve Villaber limped home with 76s and Antonio Bautista II failed to count with a 78.

Ababa, playing out of Cedarwood, bounced back to the team after missing last month's Putra Cup, birdied two of the first three holes and three more in the next 12. He had to settle for nines of 37-36, though, after tripping on tree bogeys and a pair of double bogeys.

A six at the par-4 last hole dropped him into a share of ninth place in individual play to be harpooned on a

Korea, third at the last Nomura Cup in Taiwan, posted a four-under 212 for a four-stroke lead over Taiwan in the four-ball play three-on-a-team event.

Japan, which romped last year 20-6 while China assembled a 221 for third. Australia, which ruled the last five outings of the 22-nation event, struggled with a 227 while Puerto Cup winner Thailand sputtered with a 230.

SSC Baycats master UM Hawks, put away Naascu hoops crown

By Jasmine W. Payo

SEALING ANOTHER DOMINANT season, San Sebastian College-Cavite swept its title series with University of Manila to bag the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) basketball championship for the second straight year.

Most Valuable Player Jhon Ornilla came through with crucial baskets in the closing minutes as the Baycats outlasted the Hawks in overtime, 98-93, and claim the best-of-three series in 2-0 Monday at the Centro Asiedenses.

Ornilla knocked in six of his team-high 24 points in overtime and last year's MVP Eric Lauresse added 22 and 23 rebounds as the Baycats wrestled control in the extension.

"Mission accomplished," said Baycats coach Edgar Macaraeg, named Coach of the Year. "Credit goes to the boys for pushing hard in overtime."

The Baycats opened the extra period with a 9-0 spurt for a 93-83 lead.

Art Dana hit 15 points, including five in overtime, while Raymund Alcantara and Lito Escobal contributed 12.

The Baycats capped the 5th game of last of Rookie of the Year Joel Alen Warren, who caused the Hawks two overtime, 82-82, after nailing two free throws with 43 ticks left in regulation.

With the loss, the former five-time champion Hawks failed to complete a clean title sweep after their juniors and women's counterparts won the tournament.

The Baycats wrapped up the season with their seventh title overall.

Ornilla and Lauresse were named to the Mythical Team along with Jessie James Collado of Lyceum of Subic Bay, UM's John Matalubong and UPD's Gerald Escobio. Escobal earned the Defensive Player of the Year citation.

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QUEEN CROWNED: Miss Universe Philippines 2nd Runner-up Cinderella Marcos (right) shows her medal and plaque after topping the 10K run of the Cinco Pinoys 5k Run at the SM Mall of Asia grounds last Sunday. At left is Francis Gonpoco, VP of the sponsoring All Condition Gear Philippines, Inc.

Tight bike races tipped

TEAMMATES MEL MARK BOBadilla and Johnboy Enriquez set out this weekend to dispute the 115cc Open and 115cc Sports Production courses in the penultimate leg of the 2009 Magnolia Health Tru Philippine Cyclocross Kings Championship at the Camsons Racing Track in Cavite.

Mikio Shimoda, on the other hand, aims to load up his championship bids in the premiere 150cc Open and the 150cc Open.

Dobbadia pares the Open class with 375 points, 13 clear of Enriquez, and the Sports Production division with 377, 12 ahead of his Ilarmon rival.

The Nike Automatic Scooter 4-Strokes class will have RC Ng eyeing a second straight win.

Also favored to keep his grip on the lead is Paolo Labador in the 115cc Super Stock class.

SPORTSWATCH

Klub Don Juan staghot today

AT LEAST SOME 80 PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE naked women will be on display at the opening of the Klub Don Juan 8-Hog Derby at the San Juan Coliseum.

Among the nine visitors are Manny and Arman Santos, Mayor Dennis Pineda, Gerry "Boy" Espina, Rolando Valdez, Joel Mendoza, Dan Domingo, Jil Cardoliza, Ray de Paula, Pepsy Tanay, Harry Mendoza, and rocker Patrick Antonio and Emil Diaz.

Today's 9-race tournament features more than 100 hogs. The championship round action is on Saturday.

By Top Choice
At Santa Ana Park

NEWS

There are now 2.9M jobless Pinoys

THE NUMBER OF JOBLESS FILIPINOS CLIMBED to 2.9 million in July, from 2.7 million in the same month last year, as new entrants into the labor force exceeded the number of jobs created.

The unemployment rate rose to 7.6 percent, according to the latest labor force survey of the National Statistics Office (NSO), which the agency said was "not significantly different" from the 7.4 percent recorded last year.

No reason was given for the higher jobless rate, but experts, which account for a third of the economy, took 18.7 percent in the second quarter from a year earlier—the biggest drop since the fourth quarter of 1998, to point fell 2.7 percent.

The economy grew 2.6 percent in the second quarter, slowing recession as consumption and saving combined with government and private spending spurred growth, officials said last month.

According to the NSO survey, there were 1.1 million fresh and old-time jobseekers in July while net employment generation—the number of new jobs minus the number of jobs lost—reached only 918,000.

Also, the number of jobs made available last July was 28.2 percent lower than the 1.3 million created in the same month in 2008.

Some 1.36 million people 15 years and older were added to the number of people that can work, which increased by 2.4 percent to 59.51 million in July from 58.12 million in the same month in 2008.

According to Augusto B. Iniston, acting director general of the National Economic and Development Authority, the decrease labor market "remained resilient amidst the global crisis."

"There should be no respite in channeling the government's multi-pronged efforts toward a better quality of the labor force in the midst of early indicators that the global crisis is winding down," Iniston said.

"The country should be ready for the race to the rebound, where competitiveness matters," he added.

According to NSO data, the services sector led the creation of jobs with a 5.4 percent year-on-year increase, or an additional 930,000 jobs.

The industry sector garnered 127,000 jobs, or an increase of 3.7 percent.

The construction subsector opened up 128,000 new jobs while mining and quarrying recorded 22,000.

On the other hand, 12,000 workers in the manufacturing and 3,000 in the utilities subsector lost their jobs.

Employment in the agricultural sector, fishery and forestry sectors fell by 1.3 percent, as the planting season was hampered by typhoons and farmers were unable to access private financing for crop expansion and diversification. With AP

Airport execs ready to help in probe of radar snafu

By Jerome Aning

OFFICIALS AT THE NINOY AQUINO International Airport (Naia) yesterday said they were ready to cooperate in the investigation ordered by Malacañang of Sunday's radio breakdown that paralyzed for several hours flights at the country's international and domestic airports, stranding thousands of passengers.

But this early, general manager Alfonso Cusi of the Manila International Airport Authority (MIAA), which runs the Naia's three terminals, is pointing out that his agency is not to blame for the fiasco.

"Though air traffic and its facilities are not the direct responsibility of the MIAA, we took the liberty of issuing our usual advisories to the public on matters of urgency and announced our assurances that despite the technical glitch, we continue to keep the principle of safety first in the airport," Cusi said in a statement.

CAAP responsibility

The MIAA chief said the radar system was the responsibility of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), which is tasked with air traffic control. The Naia and other airports in the country rely on CAAP for airborne aircraft movement and monitoring, he said.

Cusi added that the MIAA was willing to help the CAAP address its problems so that the incident would not happen again. The radio breakdown stranded thousands of passengers and embarrassed the government.

"While we understand the sentiments of the affected passengers, we wanted to reiterate that Naia and MIAA can only support CAAP in properly addressing the technical problem. I have instructed our engineering and operations people to see what they can do to help CAAP during that time. Fortunately, through the cooperation of the two agencies, the problem was resolved with no casualties recorded," he said.

Cusi, however, said he and other MIAA officials were ready to face any summons that will be ordered by the probing body.

No Naia blackout

He stressed that there was no blackout at the Naia terminals and this was not the main source of the problems, as reported by other media outlets.

At a gathering yesterday, Cusi thanked MIAA employees, especially those from the operations, engineering, public affairs and airport police departments, "who painstakingly unshrewd their duties and walked the extra mile in solving and handling the predicament during with our passengers and the public."

However, Cusi's deputy refused to blame the CAAP, even if its spokesperson had admitted that the agency's equipment were already old.

"This is mainly a technical problem and it has no connection with top officials so whatever would topics be before technical experts are already on top of the situation. Together with the CAAP, the MIAA's paramount concern is our public's safety," assistant general manager for airport development and corporate affairs Dave Ferrer, said.

Flight operations at Naia were back to normal as of 7 a.m. Monday. The incident on Sunday was caused by a series of power fluctuations that shut down CAAP's antiquated radar and communications equipment.

More than 40 flights were cancelled or delayed. The delays resulted in a backlog of departure flights that exceeded some 4,000 passengers.

Aplus METRO
Editor Abelardo S. Llanday

7 hurt in QC mall robbery, shootout

By Nancy C. Carvajal

ARMED MEN TOOK FOUR DUFFEL bags with an undetermined amount of cash from an armored van parked at a Quezon City shopping mall yesterday afternoon and engaged security guards and van escorts in a shootout.

Police said at least seven people, including two shoppers, were hurt in the gunfight that ensued after the robbery that took place at the Waltermart in Mindoc.

"Some of the suspects took four duffle bags from the armored van and fled from the scene, while their companions engaged mall guards in a firefight," a police investigator said.

Police also held five security escorts of the armored van for questioning. They were identified as Rolyvic Temporada, Marvin Suazo, Roger Montilla, Hafton Molano, and Cubao Siloong.

Those who were hurt were identified as wrong Hirschbach caller Jayson Arizala, guard John Ray Reyes, guard Waldo Quizuba, John Castro, Andy Garag, Rachel Abuaran and her

TO PAGE A23

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For Inquiries, contact Ms. Cacay Ponce de Leon of the PMAP Secretariat at tel. no. 726-1333 or email cacay.poncedeleon@pmap.org.ph.

Comedian-politician charged anew

By Julia M. Aurelio

COMEDIAN TURNED POLITICIAN Ted Failon has been charged anew before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for allegedly issuing bouncing checks to pay for several pieces of jewelry he bought in 2008.

In a two-page affidavit, Perlita dela Cruz, a resident of Cubao, Quezon City, accused Failon, the vice mayor of Albuera town in Baliuag province, of violating the anti-bouncing check law.

Dela Cruz filed the complaint against Failon (Senator Dominggoy is not Ted) on Sept. 8, the Inquirer learned yesterday.

Failon was a former comedian and mainstay of "Eat Bulaga" on GMA 7 who gained popularity by spoofing veteran actress Rosa Aunor. He was elected vice mayor in 2007.

"He is not the first time that he has been accused of violating these Pandemac 22 or the antibouncing check law.

In February 2007, charges were filed against him after he allegedly issued several bad checks as payment for a car costing about P1 million.

Last year, a publisher sued Failon after his check payments for P1.1 million worth of school books bounced due to insufficient funds.

In the most recent case filed against him, Failon was accused by Perlita Cruz of issuing 18 checks totaling P366,800 as payment for several pieces of jewelry which she issued to Failon from March to August 2008.

Dela Cruz said he failed to cash the checks because the bank told him that Failon's account was already closed.

He added that his lawyer sent two letters this year to Failon to demand payment.

"After his [Cruz] receipt of the demand letters and up to the filing of this complaint-affidavit, he has not paid nor has [he] made any representation for payment of the face value of the above checks," Dela Cruz said in his affidavit.

He pointed out that under the law, the respondent's failure to pay the holder of the check or make representation for payment within five days from receipt of the demand letter is "prima facie" evidence of insufficient funds.

Contacted by the Inquirer, Orce, through his manager Jun Narda, refused to comment on the complaint filed against him.

With Raymund Jun Zingapan

Sandigan denies Marquez appeal

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has junked former Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez's petition to dismiss the nine remaining graft charges filed against him in connection with the purchase of P1.5 million worth of allegedly overpriced "wally trapping" between 1996 and 1997.

In a resolution dated Sept. 16, the anti-graft court's 2nd Division said Marquez did not raise any new arguments in his motion for reconsideration.

The court earlier denied the demurrer to evidence filed by Marquez in which he sought the dismissal of the charges filed against him for insufficient evidence.

Marquez, however, filed a motion for reconsideration in February, arguing that the prosecution's evidence against him was weak.

He pointed out that the Commission on Audit had already cleared him of any liability in the purported anomaly in a report it released in 2000.

Marquez's coaccused—city treasurer Silvestre de Leon, city accountant Marilou Tanael, general services officer in charge Olivia Guzman, budget officer Florentina Bahia, and Office of the Mayor chief of staff Allan Ramos—had also filed a demurrer to evidence, saying that the prosecution had failed to prove any conspiracy among them.

But the court said that it found "no cogent reason to change, modify and/or otherwise reverse the resolution, considering that the said facts raised in said motion [of Marquez and his coaccused] had already been amply addressed by this Court in the assailed resolution."

The Sandiganbayan earlier convicted Marquez of five counts of graft over the purchase of 33,422 bicycles worth P29.9 million from 1996 to 1998. The bonuses were allegedly overpriced by P900,000.

The Supreme Court, however, reversed the anti-graft court's ruling on Sept. 2, saying there was not enough evidence against the former mayor.

Motorcycle-truck mishap leaves 2 dead, 1 injured

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A FORMER POLICEMAN AIRSOFT RESERVIST and his woman passenger were killed while their vantage companion was seriously injured on Monday evening when the motorcycle they were riding on was struck by an 18-wheel truck in Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Reynaldo Reyes Jr., 31, an employee of Manila Hotel, former policeman and Army reservist, died on the spot after his head was crushed underneath the wheels of the truck.

One of his two passengers, Jenny Montoya, 19, died as she was being treated at Eat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Hospital. Before she passed away, doctors had to amputate her legs because of her injuries.

In serious condition

Her 14-year-old sister, who was injured, remains in serious condition at the hospital ng Marcela after sustaining massive head and body injuries.

None of the three was wearing a motorcycle helmet at the time of the accident.

Truck driver Wilson Bertullo, 37, was taken into custody by police-man Rolando Sanchez after the accident.

SPO4 Mario Jorge of the Manila Police District (MPD) Traffic Enforcement Unit said the accident took place at around 7 p.m. on Monday on the southbound lane of Road 10 near Clenia Street in Tondo.

Jorge said that Reyes and his companions were on their way home when he decided to overtake the slow-moving truck on his left.

Pinned underneath

Bertullo, however, told police he failed to notice the motorcycle driver's presence. As a result, he made a hard wheel to the motorcycle and the driver fell underneath his vehicle.

In an interview with the Inquirer, Bertullo said he did not see the motorcycle and thought at first that he had hit a bump on the road.

He added that he "simply realized" that an accident had occurred when residents on Road 10 blocked his path.

Reyes died on the spot while his two passengers were brought to the nearest hospital.

ID cards, gun permit found

MPD Station 1 Tondo Reyes police community precinct personnel found a ID card pinned among Reyes' belongings. They also recovered a gun permit and several identification cards, including one from the Philippine National Police and the Airsoft Players of the Philippines.

"The police said Bertullo would be charged before the city prosecutor's office with reckless imprudence resulting in two counts of homicide and serious physical injury.

7 hurt in QC mall robbery . . .

From page A11

some Michelle.

Supt. Gerardo Ramolete, chief of the Criminal Investigation Unit of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD-CIU), said he could not confirmed at press time the reports that between 10 and 15 men armed with high-powered weapons participated in the robbery.

Philcentrum's vice president for business development, Simplicio "Sopet" de Guzman, said the mall has a closed circuit television system that could have recorded the incident.

De Guzman said that mall security guards and escort security of the armored van managed to engage the suspects in a shootout and was able to apprehend three of the robbers. They were not identified.

He said that security has fully cooperated with the investigators.

Ramolete said that the robbers were able to enter the basement parking area of the mall where the van of the Mandaluyong security agency was parked.

He also said that the robbers fled from the scene on board a Ford Expedition van which was later found abandoned inside nearby Veterans Village.

Ramolete said investigators were trying to determine how the robbers were able to enter the parking area.

METROBRIEFS

Depot helped put out Pandacan fire

THE PANDACAN Depot Services Inc. (PDSI) has assisted the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) put out a fire at Barangay 838 in 2020s more an hour. PDSI Chief Supt. Bryan Sunyoto said in a statement issued yesterday that they immediately deployed two fire trucks and activated its pumps, fire monitors and hydrants when fire broke out last Saturday. He added the depot also provided water supply to help firefighters and fire volunteers put out the fire. No one was reported injured in the fire, but fire officials' operation was temporarily stopped. It was resumed only after the fire was declared under control.

Taguig cops find woman's body set on fire

THE BODY of a still unidentified woman, who may have been killed earlier according to police, was set on fire on the sidewalk of C5 road in Taguig City Monday past midnight. PSE Alfeo Corpuz, Taguig police investigator, said motorists patrol men were making the rounds in Barangay Fort Bonifacio at around 12:30 p.m. when they noticed a fire across the street near McKinley Hill Village. Upon checking it, the lawmen were taken aback to find out a burning body of a woman. Corpuz said the face of the woman was already beyond recognition after the police put out the fire. The woman, wearing black upper undergarment and short pants, may be killed first before she was set on fire for the purpose of hiding the crime, Corpuz said. Police found four cigarette butts and a folded shirt coming of flammable fluid. (Corpuz) said.

Nika Calbarion Calipa

Alleged GF of former Abra gov seeks NBI aid

ABRA (TEO) girlfriend of former Abra Gov. Vicente Valera, who was arrested recently in connection with the 2006 assassination of its late Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr., yesterday sought the help of the National Bureau of Investigation to prove that her children's are detained public attorney's office, Appellate of Bantilan, Pasig City, specifically asked NBI National Capital Region Deputy Director Rommel Vallejo to conduct a polygraph test on her child. Lusha was reportedly scrapped to go to the NBI because Valera allegedly refuses to acknowledge the child as his, and would not provide child support. Valera is detained at the San Luis City Jail after he was arrested inside a unit at the Holiday Tower in Fortbell, Makati City, after he was tagged as the brains behind the Bersamin assassination. Bersamin, a political rival of the former governor, was gunned down on Dec. 16, 2006, at the St. Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City. His police escort, SPO1 Arsinio Ortega, was also killed in the incident.

Jeannette I. Andrade

DID YOU KNOW

VICTOR Hatael, director of the Americans' Bureau of Health, was the first to take blood to enter the Santa Clara Convent in Intramuros in the early 1900s, when the nuns epidemic affected the Santa Clara nuns.

CAPT. Intramuros Inquirer Research

WORLDBRIEFS

Iranian conservative harshly criticizes regime

TEHRAN—A prominent Iranian conservative respected by supporters of the country's Islamic regime issued a blistering condemnation of the ruling establishment and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday, adding an unexpected note to a growing chorus of criticism over the bloody aftermath of Iran's disputed election. "As commander in chief of the armed forces, you didn't beat people well after the election. Your agents opened fire, killed the people, beat them and disemboweled and burnt their property. Your silence this cost far ignored," the letter reads. "Your apology can't hold down the anger of the people," said Mohammad Nourizad, a filmmaker and activist, in his letter published on several websites. AP

Indonesian activists condemn stoning of adulterers

BANDA ACEH—Indonesian rights activists condemned as "cruel and degrading" on Tuesday a new Islamic law calling for adulterers to be stoned to death in the country's staunchly conservative Aceh province. The law—which also allows punishments of up to 100 lashes for child rape, 100 lashes for homosexual acts and 60 lashes for gambling—was passed unanimously on Monday by lawmakers in the region at the northern tip of Sumatra island. AFP

Iraqi who threw shoes at Bush freed

BAGHDAD—The brother of a local reporter who threw his shoes at former President George W. Bush in a Baghdad news conference was released from a Baghdad prison. Uday al-Zeidi says his brother, Muntadhar al-Zeidi, left an Iraqi Army base where the prison is located on Tuesday and was accompanied by several members of parliament. Al-Zeidi, a little-known reporter for a small Iraqi TV station, gained instant Arab status in the Arab world last December when he hurled his shoes at Bush as he shook hands in Iraq's prime minister at a Baghdad news conference. The reporter spent nine months in jail. AP

Flash flood kills 15 in Indonesia

JAKARTA—Flash floods swept away dozens of people in a remote Indonesian mountain village before sunrise on Tuesday, leaving 15 dead and 25 missing, officials said. Search and rescue teams were deployed to the Madina district of North Sumatra, about 1,250 kilometers northwest of the capital, Jakarta, early provincial spokesperson Edi Syahlan. Hundreds of people fled inundated homes. Medical supplies, food and tents were being delivered to the area, which is several hours by road from the nearest town, said Health Ministry Crisis Center chief Rustam Pakaya. AP

Top al-Qaida militant killed in Somalia

MOGADISHU—United States special forces on helicopters attacked a car in southern Somalia on Monday and killed one of east Africa's most wanted al-Qaida militants, militiamen and US sources said. Kenyan-born Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, 28, was suspected of bombing the tourist hotels that killed 15 people at a Kenyan hotel in 2002, as well as involvement in a simultaneous, but botched, missile launch at an Israeli airliner leaving Mombasa airport. A senior Somali government source said the fugitive was in local talks with Islamist insurgents from the al-Shabaab rebel group. Reuters

'Dirty Dancing' star Patrick Swayze dies of cancer at 57

LOS ANGELES—ACTOR PATRICK Swayze, whose sizzling and dazzling dance instructor in "Dirty Dancing" made him one of the iconic film stars of the 1980s, died on Monday after a long battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 57.

Swayze, an actor and dancer who reinvented his image as an eyeball-opposite Demi Moore in the 1990 romance "Ghost," died at his home.

"Patrick Swayze passed away peacefully today with family at his side after having the challenges of his illness for the last 20 months," publicist Stewart Wolf said in a statement.

Swayze became one of Hollywood's top stars with 1987's "Dirty Dancing," which drilled

SWAYZE

Hollywood superstars to become one of the most watched movies of all time.

The Texas-born actor played the swaggering dance instructor Johnny Castle in the film opposite Jennifer Grey's sheltered teenager Frances "Baby" Houseman, who becomes smitten with him while on vacation at a New York resort during the 1960s.

Swayze was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer, one of the most deadly forms of the disease, in January 2008. He said at the time that the cancer had already spread to his liver.

But he vowed to fight the disease and had treatment with an experimental drug, surprising Hollywood by filming a new television series for television called "The Beast" in which he played the grueling lead role.

The series was broadcast earlier this year.

"I think everybody thought I was out of my mind"... thinking I'm gonna pull off a TV show?" Swayze said in an interview in January 2009, adding that he was scared and angry at his diagnosis.

Swayze was working on a musical with his wife of more than 30 years, Lisa Niemi, early on the year.

"Dirty Dancing," which was made for a modest budget and almost scrapped by its studio, became a massive box-office hit, earning Golden Globe nominations for both stars and spawning the Oscar-winning hit single "(I've Had) The Time of My Life."

Producers did not have high hopes for the film but it reaped $64 million at the United States box office and $214 million worldwide. Reuters

Thailand to deploy soldiers vs pro-Thaksin rally

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S CABinet agreed on Tuesday to invoke tough security laws and deploy soldiers for pro-coup Bangkok ahead of the planned mass rally on Saturday in Bangkok by loyalists of deposed Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

The move comes amid fears ahead of the planned mass rally on Saturday in Bangkok by loyalists of deposed Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who want current Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to quit and call fresh elections.

Government spokesperson Panitan Wattanayagorn said the Internal Security Act would be in force from Friday until Tuesday in the center of the capital "as the demonstrations is likely to turn into political chaos."

"This law will both ensure the safety of protesters and allow us to control the situation. Police will be the core force with the military acting as assistants, but the number of forces depends on the situation," he said.

He said between 20,000 and 30,000 Red Shirts from around the country were expected to gather.

The act will effectively ban protests in Bangkok's historic Dusit district, which is home to several powerful Bangkok locations including Government House and Government House, where the cabinet offices are located.

The protest comes a day before Abhisit is due to leave for the United States for the United Nations General Assembly and the G20 summit. Thaksin was toppled by the military in 2006 while he was away at the UN.

The Red Shirts have twice rallied off previous rallies in recent weeks after the government invoked the act, but they vowed to go ahead with the weekend's demonstration.

"Unarmed and peaceful protests is guaranteed under the constitution. The government has no need to be afraid of this demonstration," Jaroporn Promjam, one of the movement's center leaders, told AFP.

He said the rally would aim to put pressure on Prem Tinsulanonda, the chief advisor to Thailand's widely revered King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The Red Shirts accuse Prem of being behind the coup against Thaksin. AFP

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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5.25% 3-YEAR RTBs DUE 2012
6.25% 5-YEAR RTBs DUE 2014
7.00% 7-YEAR RTBs DUE 2016

Minimum Investment:
P5,000 and in multiples of P5,000 thereafter

Interest Payments:
Quarterly

Offer Period:
September 15-22, 2009

Issue Date:
September 24, 2009

Joint Issue Managers and Joint Issue Coordinators

BDO

BPI Capital

DBP

First Metro Investment Corporation

LANDBANK

Metrobank

RCBC

Q&A:

The WORLD

Editor Lorraine B. Quiazon

Obama warns Wall Street: Change old ways

NEW YORK—UNITED STATES PRESIDENT Barack Obama bluntly warned on Monday that some Wall Street bosses were ignoring lessons of the financial crisis, as he demanded a new age of prudence after bloated years of unchecked excess.

"The old ways that led to this crisis cannot stand," Obama said, in an outspoken address delivered in the shadow of US financial firms he blamed for unleashing global corruption. "History cannot be allowed to repeat itself."

A year after Lehman Brothers failed, triggering the meltdown, Obama also called on Congress to act this year on regulatory reforms he hailed as the most sweeping bid to curtail industry over-exuberance since the Great Depression.

While blaming much of the crisis on the US, Obama made clear a week ahead of the G20 summit in Pittsburgh that he would press global powers to do more to rein in financial industry abuses.

The president suggested the US economy was returning to growth, but warned that what he called the government's "extraordinary interventions" should not be ended prematurely.

"All the indicators we still watch to suggest that we're starting to see growth," Obama told Bloomberg Television. "What we have to be careful of is taking the crutches away from the patient too early."

But his pointed message after traveling to historic Federal Hall on Wall Street in New York was that, as the economy slowly mends, some key players in America's finance sector were willfully ignoring the lessons of the crisis.

"They do so not just at their own peril, but at our nation's," Obama said, noting that many big Wall Street banks and financier houses had received huge government bailouts at taxpayer expense.

"Those on Wall Street cannot resume taking risks without regard for consequences, and expect that next time, American taxpayers will be there to break their fall."

While lambasting Wall Street, the president admitted that: "Washington—and in a wider sense the American people...never culpable for a crisis that many contemporaries say is nearly 30 percent set home and spread misery abroad.

"It was a collective failure of responsibility in Washington, on Wall Street and across America that led to the near-collapse of our financial system one year ago," he said just blocks from the New York Stock Exchange.

He also urged bosses of top financiers firms to make a symbolic downpayment in their effort to restore public trust, by taking a cautious cash cut pending bonus pay awards.

Asked whether he would support a second aid package following his massive $787-billion plan passed by Congress in February, Obama told CNBC television he has a "strong inclination not to do it," although he cautioned: "We're not out of the woods yet." AFP

Intense support pours for *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!*

by Carina Dolpina

Robert lined up for the activity booths at the jampacked venue.

Talk 'N Text's *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* advocacy has brought its message to the masses via a series of exciting and informative events called *Tipid-Sulit Pinas! Tropang Idol for Life*. The series of events seeks to inspire and help people improve their quality of life through *diskarteng tipid-sulit*—to make the most out of what they have using ingenuity, perseverance, and hard work.

Through the various events and activities, the public is provided with more chances to contribute to the advocacy and at the same time learn from free livelihood seminars on food preparation, recycled products, and helpful consumer *tipid-sulit* tips.

The series of events were held in Leyte, Davao del Sur, and Malabon where friends, families, and neighbors were also treated with games, prizes, and entertainment from big-name celebrities like Robin Padilla, Vhong Navarro, Dominic Ochoa, Tuesday Vargas, and The Streetboys. Talk 'N Text Marketing Group Head Perry Bryant was present to witness the people's enthusiastic response to the project's ideals.

> **"It is heartwarming to see the people's support for this activity. They learned and had fun at the same time. And that's what this event is all about—to give everyone a chance to understand and practice the philosophy of the *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* advocacy in an enjoyable and *tipid-sulit* way. *Nakapag-bonding at kainuwan ng isla, marunot pa silang natutunan at natulungan.*"**
>
> Perry Bryant
> Talk 'N Text Marketing Group Head

Another component of the event is the Barangay Challenge—a search for exemplary businesses that use the *diskarteng tipid-sulit* to succeed and contribute to society by helping the underprivileged. One of the winners is Ms. Teresita Loreta, whose hair-making business provided employment to a host of her neighbors in Barangay Tangos, Navotas City. Awardees were given cash prizes plus a chance to compete in the Business in Development (BiD) Challenge Philippines, a nationwide business plan competition that promotes poverty alleviation through entrepreneurship. (Interested applicants can visit www.bidnetwork.org/page/9743/en for details.)

The thousands of participants in the three events are indicative of the people's support for the advocacy. Those who were not able to attend the event, however, could still take part in the advocacy by registering to Classified 10 (text CF10 to 8855). For every registration, Talk 'N Text donates to the *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* fund. The fund will be used in back-various livelihood programs all over the country through its partnership with Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and JobsDB.com. Interested donors can also download the *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* logo or a *Tipid-Sulit* tip, again via 8855. The fund will go to the advocacy's partners including PBSP, Bangko, Hopkins, and BagoZBarbers.

To know more about *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!* and how to participate, visit www.tipidsulitpinas.com.

Partners Bagu Hockey Bangko, and NGOs gave good advice on how to use diskarteng tipid-sulit (above); showbiz personalities donated pre-used belongings for auction, proceeds of which went to the advocacy's fund (right). Talk 'N Text endorsers Dominic Ochoa, Tuesday Vargas, Robin Padilla, and Vhong Navarro shared their previous jobs to encourage people to practice the diskarteng tipid-sulit (below).

"We envision an invigorated Filipinos who knows how to make the resources available to him work according to his needs. This is *diskarteng tipid-sulit*. This is how the community can and will flourish."

Manuel V. Pangilinan
MVP Communications Director

"Poverty alleviation is possible through entrepreneurship. We only need to ignite the Filipino's enterprising spirit to make this happen. Talk 'N Text has deepened its engagement with the masses from being a provider of basic telecommunications services to being a livelihood partner."

Orlando B. Vea
Talk 'N Text Wireless services

"Filipinos need the proper vehicle that would give them the winning attitude in overcoming financial challenges. *Tipid-Sulit Pinas!*, in its partnership with Philippine Business for Social Progress and JobsDB, is exactly that."

Sandra L. Mojica
SMART Wireless Consumer Business Head

IN THIS ISSUE

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■ **Miners urged to meet** industry best practices /B2

Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

Remittances rose 9% to $1.49B in July

Gov't to revise forecast as 7-month inflows rise 3.8%

By Michelle V Rivera

REMITTANCES GREW AT A MUCH FASTER PACE IN JULY, defying earlier projections that the global economic crunch would dampen the ability of overseas Filipino workers to send money to their families in the Philippines.

According to a report by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, remittances rose 9 percent to $1.49 billion in July, bringing the total for the first seven months of the year to $8.97 billion, up 3.8 percent from a year ago.

The growth since January contradicted forecasts by investment banks that remittances would contract sharply this year on the back of layoffs in the manufacturing and financial sectors abroad. The latest result

REMITTANCES B3

Currencies

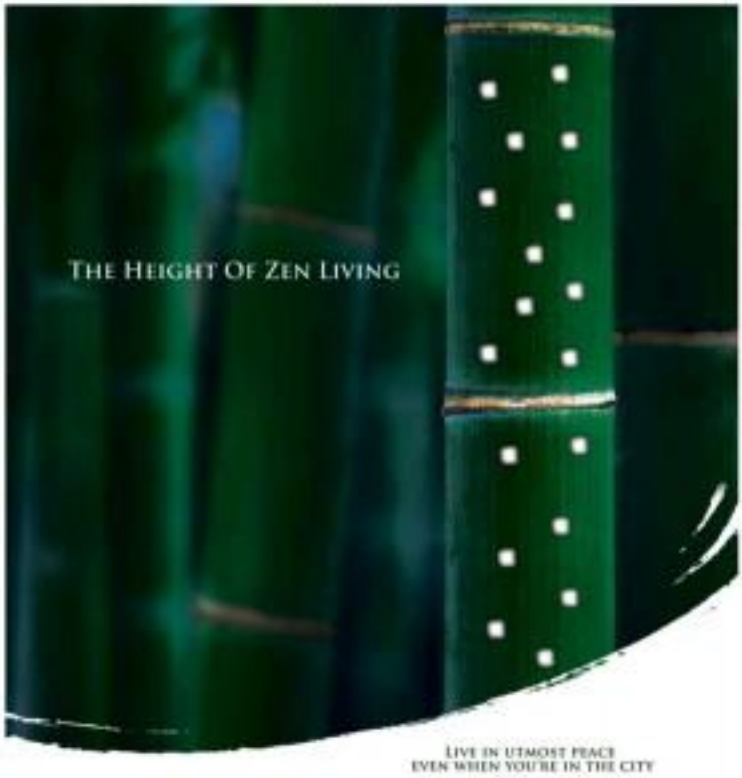
Stock Market

Stocks close lower

(STORY CONTINUES ON PAGE B3)

Congress prodded on economic reform bills

By Abigail L. Ho



THE GRAND Midori
MAKATI

Metrobank

Petroenergy seen spending at least $100M for wind farms

By Amy R. Remo

LISTED FROM PETROENERGY RESOURCES Corp. plans to invest some $100 million in two 30-megawatt wind farms—one in Ilocos and the other in Bicol.

Petroenergy vice president Francisco G. Delfin Jr. said the company was set to commission separate feasibility studies for the proposed wind projects to confirm the wind power potential in Ilocos, Bicolandia and Samar, Aklan.

Delfin said the company was expected to spend $500,000 for the feasibility studies and the two-year predevelopment stage. The amount is on top of the investments to be made for the planned wind farms.

"Should the project come to fruition and the feed-in tariff is favorable and we proceed in the actual commercial development, a 30-MW wind farm will probably require an investment of about $55 million," Delfin said.

On Monday, the Department of Energy awarded Petroenergy two wind service contracts for two 10-MW wind farm projects, which would cover 2,025 hectares in Aklan, and another 1,781 hectares in Hinagdanan.

The service contracts will allow us a two-year exclusivity phase in which to conduct the detailed wind data recording. As soon as this is signed, what will happen is, we will install a wind mast to record local wind conditions to feed and flatten for 18 months," Delfin explained.

"Currently, we don't have a solid database that can be used to assess the electricity yield of these areas. Most of the data existing right now are reconnaissance or exploratory in nature," Delfin said, adding that the company is hoping to raise the feasibility studies within the year.

He, however, noted that the government should already be able to formulate a "favorable feed-in tariff so that will make renewable energy resources like wind and solar really competitive with baseload plants like coal and geothermal."

He noted that Petroenergy, which would commission the proposed projects on its own, was open to potential partnership with prospective investors.

In the meantime, Delfin said Petroenergy was concentrating on its petroleum exploration project in Galoc, Mindoro, following the divestment of its 1.05-percent share in the Galoc oil field in offshore Palawan.

Its Galoc project is producing 25,000 barrels of oil per day.

"And the next step there is an expanded exploration drilling to determine additional reserves in order to produce beyond 25,000 barrels of oil per day. We're in very good shape for as far as our Galoc project is concerned," Delfin said.

He added that new exploration efforts would require additional investments but declined to disclose exact figures.

Mastercard sees credit card use picking up in '10

By Michelle V. Ramos

CREDIT CARD USE IS EXPECTED TO PICK UP next year as the easing global economic crisis prompts more Filipinos consumers to spend.

Jose Rene Villareal, country manager of Mastercard, said credit card-funded consumption in the Philippines had managed to sustain growth, albeit at a slower pace, despite the hard times. He expects conditions next year would be better for businesses and credit card companies, as growth in consumption is seen to accelerate.

Villareal said the tough economic conditions forced some people to defer "discretionary" spending this year, but they have maintained the use of credit cards for "nondiscretionary" spending. Nondiscretionary spending covers basic goods, including food and clothing, while discretionary spending involves non-essentials.

Basic goods accounted for the bulk of the things purchased and paid for through credit cards.

Plastic money was used heavily in buying clothes and grocery items, he noted.

"This is the reason why, whether there is a crisis or not, credit card use continues to grow in the Philippines," he added.

Villareal said that for next year, consumption of nondiscretionary might increase, thereby accelerating the growth in credit card use.

"Growth in consumer spending will go back to normal levels next year after it has been depressed a bit because of the crisis," Villareal said at the sidelines of an economic forum held yesterday in Makati and organized by Mastercard.

Consumption grew by 2.1 percent year-on-year in the second quarter, lower than the 8.9 percent in the first quarter but still anemic compared with the over 5-percent levels seen last year.

Economic managers said the decelerated growth in consumer spending was brought about by higher propensity of households to spend by exercising caution against the potential effects of the global crisis on employment.

However, they likewise said growth in consumption would be faster in the months ahead as reports about gradual recovery of the global economy from the turmoil injects confidence among consumers.

SENATE President Juan Ponce-Enrile receives a paint during his speech at the opening of the Mining Philippines 2009 Conference. Looking on is Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Inc. president Philip Bernaldez.

Miners urged to meet industry best practices

By Riza T. Olchondra

WITH UNDISCOVERED MINERAL wealth estimated at more than $840 billion, the Philippines could very well become a major mineral exporter if mining is done properly, according to speakers at the Mining Philippines 2009 Conference and Exhibition held at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone.

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, who spoke at the summit opening, called on mining industry players to meet best practices as new investments come in.

"While there are economic benefits to the local community in terms of employment and investment, mining also have many adverse effects on the economy, environment and the health and safety of the people. These include the eviction and displacement of people, pollution of rivers and streams, destruction of mangroves and coral reefs and devastation of agricultural land," Enrile said.

"I am one of the believers of the benefits the mining industry can bring to the economy and to our people, only if mining is done responsibly by applying best practices," he said.

The Chamber of Mines of the Philippines Inc. (CMP), for its part, is working with various sectors to improve conditions for investors and communities in mining areas.

CMP president Philip Bernaldez said in an interview that members were working with stakeholders such as local government, indigenous people, environmentalist, nongovernment organizations and the church in putting together a guidebook on mining for investments.

"We are conducting consultations to make sure that the current sectors have inputs on how to make existing work for us as a people, instead of us working for mining," Bernaldez said.

While warning that economic benefits to the local community in terms of employment and investment, mining also have many adverse effects on the economy, environment and the health and safety of the people. These includes the eviction and displacement of people, pollution of rivers and streams, destruction of mangroves and coral reefs and devastation of agricultural land," Enrile said.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 15, 2009)

CURRENCIES

September 15, 2009 Closing	Unit	Peso Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	1	1.000000	47.4100
Japan	Yen	0.010719	0.010881	0.5159
United Kingdom	Pound	1.7330	1.761705	82.0613
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129317	0.131387	6.1329
Switzerland	Francs	0.951400	0.966700	45.0156
Canada	Dollar	0.921200	0.935796	43.5753
Singapore	Dollar	0.695144	0.707156	33.5360
Australia	Dollar	0.859967	0.874276	41.4713
Bahrain	Dinar	2.654000	2.696781	127.8913
Saudi Arabia	Riyal	0.265954	0.270300	12.8206
Brunei	Dollar	0.695144	0.707156	33.5360
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000098	0.000100	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.029514	0.029992	1.4221
UAE	Dirhams	0.265954	0.270300	12.8206
EU	Euro	1.450000	1.473623	69.8839
Korea	Won	0.000825	0.000838	0.0397
China	Yuan	0.137710	0.139954	6.6362
Taiwan	Dollar	0.029989	0.030477	1.4451
India	Rupee	0.019540	0.019859	0.9416
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.276000	0.280500	13.3000
New Zealand	Dollar	0.676300	0.687300	32.5886
Sweden	Krona	0.136100	0.138311	6.5577
Kuwait	$1 Dollar	3.350000	3.404500	161.4700

P2.5-B hydro plant to rise in Panay

Lower cost, stable supply seen

By Jerry R. Barrameda

ORIENTAL ENERGY and Power Generation Co. is set to build a P2.5-billion hydropower project in the Visayas to help solve the acute power supply problems in the region.

"The hydropower project would contribute to the province's goal of achieving self-sufficiency in its power supply in the face of a looming power crisis in Visayas and Mindanao," said Oriental Energy president Carolina Tanchay.

Oriental Energy's hydropower project in Madalag, Aklan, will have a capacity of 18 megawatts (MW) and would have free priority dispatch power sources in the sale of electricity to Aklan's commercial and residential consumers.

Tanchay said the project would ensure sufficient and cheap supply of electricity specifically to Aklan.

According to Tanchay, Panay has the most expensive power cost and the lowest supply in the Philippines because it has no indigenous power supply sources. She noted that 75 percent of the island's electricity was supplied from diesel barges.

"We offer the best solution to the province's problems because we offer clean and cheap energy," Tanchay added.

Oriental Energy's project was among the $1 billion worth of renewable energy contracts with a combined capacity of 379 MW approved by the Department of Energy (DOE) last Monday.

Tanchay said Oriental Energy's hydropower project was in response to last year's Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes called for private sector investments in Negros and Panay, islands that were, depending largely on supply from the nearby Leyte province.

In the summit, the DOE reported that Panay Island needed 110 MW of power but its dependable capacity was only pegged at 127.5 MW.

The DOE estimated that Panay would need at least 39 MW of new supply to cope with the island's growing appetite for electricity. The DOE reported that due to the lack of supply in Panay, the province (including Boracay) had been experiencing 1.5 to 2.5 days of power outages a year.

Reyes said the power crisis could only be addressed through private sector investments because the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira) has restricted the government's establishment of new power plants.

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NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS

Pursuant to our disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange last August 28, 2009, we wish to inform our stockholders that Petron Corporation will terminate its stock transfer agency agreement with Stock Transfer Service, Inc. (STSI) effective September 30, 2009.

Petron has engaged the services of a new stock transfer agent, SMC Stock Transfer Service Corporation (SMCSTSC). Effective October 1, 2009, all queries of stockholders will be directed to SMCSTSC. Below are the contact details for the public's information:

SMC STOCK TRANSFER SERVICE CORPORATION
40 San Miguel Avenue, Mandaluyong City
1550 Metro Manila, Philippines
Trunkline: (632) 632-3450 to 52
Fax: (632) 632-3535
Email: smc_stsc@smg.sanmiguel.com.ph

Thank you.

(signed)
JOSE JESUS G. LAUREL
Corporate Secretary

OVERSUBSCRIBED

Orders swamp RTB issue; Treasury sets rates

By Roxanne N. Dumalaog

THE GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO breach its revised retail Treasury bond (RTB) issue of P77 billion offered in 2008 with the market awash in idle funds.

In yesterday's price-setting auction, the coupon or yield on the three-year RTB was set at 5.25 percent a year, five-year RTB at 6.25 percent and seven-year RTB at 7 percent.

Yesterday's offers that originally totaled P33 billion were oversubscribed by almost five times, with government securities-eligible dealers tendering a total of P76.28 billion.

The Bureau of the Treasury (BTr) ended up awarding a total of P25 billion, or P18 billion each in three-year and five-year RTBs and P3 billion in seven-year RTBs.

Now that prices have been set, the RTBs will be offered to the public—including individual or retail investors—until Sept. 22.

The RTB – one of several ways by which the government raises needed funds – is called retail because individuals can participate with a minimum investment of just P5,000.

Interest is paid every quarter, but the amount is subject to a 20-percent withholding tax.

Treasury bonds are considered safe investments because these are fully backed by the government, which usually does not renege on its financial obligations.

Also, the RTB is a liquid investment because it can be traded in the secondary market before it matures.

Roberto Asaad to Dupe, executive vice president of First Metro Investment Corp. (FMIC), said in an interview the amount of total tenders showed that the market was "so awash with liquidity."

FMIC is one of several issue managers of this year's RTB flow.

Other issue managers are the Development Bank of the Philippines, Banco de Oro Universal Bank, BPI Capital Corp., Landbank of the Philippines, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Corp. and Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

"Now this is just the price-setting auction," Dupe said. "Demand could easily exceed P100 billion during the public offer."

If so, this year's RTB offer would surpass the P77-billion record set three years ago.

Dupe said the coupon rates set yesterday were "very attractive" both to investors and the government.

He said rates for the three-year and five-year debt papers were above those for the secondary market while that for the seven-year issue was "on the low side," although still attractive for institutional investors.

Climate change to pare GDP of developing nations, WB says

By Michelle V. Rosco

THE WORLD BANK HAS WARNED THE Philippines and other developing countries that they stand to lose 4 to 5 percent of their annual gross domestic product if they fail to address the worsening problem of climate change.

In its 2010 World Development Report released yesterday, the World Bank said developing countries like the Philippines, which will only unfortunately run against losses, would be most vulnerable to the ill-effects of climate change.

"Climate change threatens all countries, with developing countries most vulnerable. They will bear 75 to 80 percent of the cost of the damage of climate change," the World Bank said in the report.

Montfort Pop Sarmiento, chief economist of the World Bank's sustainable development network and co-director of the 2010 World Development Report, said yesterday in a teleconference from Washington D.C. that the Philippines was encouraged to invest more in the development of indigenous sources of technology and lessen its dependence on imported fuel.

Currently, the Philippines' contribution to global carbon emissions is quite small, at only 0.27 percent of the total.

However, he said that being an archipelago that will relies on agriculture, the Philippines may see considerable reduction in productivity if the adverse effects of climate change are not addressed.

He said the World Bank was willing to assist developing countries like the Philippines in implementing projects aimed at addressing climate change via loans and technical assistance.

Ines Sodsuan, World Bank's country director for the Philippines, said in a statement that one of the objectives of the World Bank's loan programs for the Philippines for 2008 to 2011 was providing solutions to climate-related problems.

"In cooperation with other development partners, the World Bank is committed to assist the Philippines in mobilizing existing and future sources of international financing assistance," Sodsuan said.

The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Finance Corp. (IFC) have agreed to set up a common fund that countries may tap to implement projects addressing climate change.

Joe Yuen, senior operations officer of the World Bank's Philippine Sustainable Unit, said in a briefing yesterday that the three foreign lenders had pledged a combined $6 billion to lend to countries wanting to implement projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions.

Republic of the Philippines
Supreme Court
Manila

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Supreme Court of the Philippines announces the opening of one (1) position of **DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR.**

Applicants/recommendees must possess the following qualifications:

1. A natural-born Filipino citizen; at least 40 years of age; and for 15 years or more, a Judge of a lower court or engaged in the practice of law in the Philippines (Art. VIII, Sec. 7 of the Constitution, adopted by Sec. 3 of PD No. 828 as amended by PD. No. 842);
2. Be of proven competence, integrity, probity and industry; and
3. Possess a track record as an administrator or an executive.

In case of recommendation, the recommendee shall conform with the recommendation. Applications/recommendations must be submitted NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 (Wednesday) at 12:00 p.m. to:

ATTY. MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of the Philippines
Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 523-6985
Fax No. 525-3208

September 16, 2009

MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA
Clerk of Court

Singing the same tune

BIZ BUZZ
By the staff

WHILE THE LOCAL business community is abuzz with the resolution of tycoon Alfonso Yuchengco that he was arranging, armed into selling his 7-percent stake in PLDT to Metro Pacific in 1998, many observers missed out on another businessman who was also a party to that controversial transaction.

According to our sources, this low-key businessman—for several years now a thorn in MVP's side—is also set to come out and follow the example of Yuchengco.

In fact, some people in the know were fully expecting Sen. Ping Lacson to announce his name in Magdalo slogan yesterday, but for some reason failed to do so.

In any case, word is that "businessman 2" will confirm Yuchengco's version of events about the mega PLDT deal of 11 years ago. By some accounts, this businessman has more to complain about, having reportedly borne the brunt of pressure tactics allegedly ordered by then President Joseph Estrada through his "corporate genius" friend, Hiatch Dantoray.

"Businessman 2" was a key ally of MVP when PLDT was fighting against a hostile takeover by John Gokongwei years ago, but they had a falling out since then, which translates into no love lost. If he too comes out to public, Pie is, of course, a relative of Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, chair of Universal Sen. Miguel Ortiz, which has been MVP's staunch rival in the recent waves of merger and acquisition (M&A) deals in the country. Dimitri L. Lucas and Boris C. Bonifacio

MVP stocks flourish

STOCKS of index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and other Manuel V. Pangilinan-related companies like Manila Electric Co. and Philex Mining Corp. brought the local stock market down yesterday, defeating how the fairly resilient performance of Phil. Stock Traders said this was due to the allegations that stated President Erap Estrada used anti-bribing to force the Yuchengcos to sell out to the group of Manuel V. Pangilinan or MVP many years ago, a statement that was corroborated by Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco Russell. It's not really something new in the business circle which for years has been rife with rumors about how Erap allegedly made sure compelling planter call at the Yuchengco patriarch to have the deal, but it's the first time that people who may be in the know are talking about it. And the consequence is not just on Erap, who is keen on running again for president but on 2009-controlled companies. Whether or not the allegations are true, they have created jitters among investors. "Stuff like this never what will happen. If during Gary Duplessis's time, they gave back assets taken by the Marcoses under decrees [like Member of the Laporte], there's no telling what will happen during the next administration," one stock broker said.

Iserto C. Dantoray

Casualties

MOTORAL top executives of Philippine Airlines were among the first casualties of the flag carrier's rationalization program which, according to sources, would involve flight reductions and the downsizing of its 8,000-strong workforce.

Company insiders said that at least five vice presidents and several managers have been given "pink slips" as part of the airline's early retirement program. The job cuts at the top were made after management merged several departments with overlapping functions for which there are several, due to 9/11 legacy to a more realistic as part of the airline's cost-cutting measures.

Not socially, the airline's union is opposing the global financial crisis-induced downsizing.

With a $301-million loss in the last fiscal year, however, the airline's owners have little choice but to cut as close to the bone as they can.

The cutting executives' argument runs the selling airline is said to be the start of an aggressive plans to slash costs, and ultimately make PAL "leaner and meaner."

Planned restructuring activities, meanwhile, are meant to allow PAL to "concentrate on its core competencies," according to insiders.

It will be painful, for sure. But pain in trading now in PAL's cause, culprit Lucio Tan, especially when the moves are needed to ensure the very survival of his airline. *Dustin J. Lucas*

SSS to hop into mid-cap stocks

THE GOVERNMENT Social Security System will increase its investment in the local stock market. But what it has not officially said is that it will be investing more in high-growth, mid-cap companies. Some of these companies, which seek profits believe to be potential candidates for SSS buy-in, have severely rallied in the stock market over the last few months, some rising as much as 50-percent in a matter of days. *Boris C. Dantoray*

What price sweets?

GOVERNMENT and private stakeholders on the sugar industry appear unduly are on worried about smuggling that they have asked the Presidential Anti-smuggling Group (PAIG) to be on the lookout.

So, it's not fear of sugar being smuggled into the Philippines, it's fear of local sugar being dropped on all the country's borders.

ABS-CBN to

MWSS approves extension of Maynilad contract to 2037

Move to temper water rate increases

By Kisa T. Olchondra

MAYNILAD WATER SERVICES INC., THE water affiliate of DMCI Holdings Inc., has cleared the first hurdle in its bid to extend its concession contract with the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System by 15 years to 2037.

DMCI Finance officer Abdic G. Bertaza said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange that the MWSS board of trustees has issued a resolution approving the water company's term extension application.

The MWSS approval of Maynilad's concession term extension is subject to the concurrence of the Department of Finance.

An extended term would give Maynilad more time to recover capital, giving it the flexibility to increase investments while keeping tariff increases low.

"The term extension will also enhance Maynilad's ability to undertake long-term projects that will ensure the reliability and security of water supply for the West Zone, address environmental issues such as sewerage projects, and generate thousands of jobs from these increased capital expenditures," Bertaza said.

Since being taken over by DMCI and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. 2007, Maynilad has installed 127,000 new connections.

The company also increased 2.6 hour water supply coverage to 60 percent of its concession area and spent nearly P20 billion to replace old pipes, upgrade facilities and expand its distribution network to accelerate improvement of water and sewerage services in the West Zone.

Maynilad had said that it could provide jobs for some 200,000 Filipinos a year if its concession would be expanded.

The company said an average of 10 people are employed for every P1 million investment it makes.

Most of the jobs are made available to its subcontractors and business operations.

Asian stocks up, shrugging off China-US spat

HONG KONG—ASIAN MARKETS were mostly higher on Tuesday after Wall Street shrugged off media reports between the United States and China to end at its highest point in nearly a year.

European markets were mixed.

The dollar clawed back some losses against the yen, while oil prices hovered below $69 a barrel.

The modest gains followed Wall Street, where Dow Jones Industrial Average briefly rose by more than 100 points before sliding nearly in the day as investors eyed a brewing trade dispute between the United States and China.

But analysts said a full-out trade war was highly unlikely given how much is at stake for the two increasingly interwined economies.

Global markets have recovered much of their losses since the failure of Lehman Brothers Holding Inc. a year ago from the financial system and deepened the world economic downturn.

With little in the way of economic data, company announcements and government policy changes to drive the markets, many investors were waiting for reasons to buy in the short term, said Andrew Orchard, Asian strategist for Royal Bank of Scotland in Hong Kong.

"Liquidity is still strong, and until they remove its excess liquidity there's a good chance of the markets will keep rising," Orchard said.

As trading got underway in Europe, Britain's FTSE was down 0.1 percent, Germany's DAX was 0.2 percent, while France's CAC 40 was 0.2 percent.

In Japan, the Nikkei 225 stock average closed up 15.36 points, or 0.2 percent, at 10,217.82, and Shanghai's benchmark gained 0.3 percent at 3,032.75.

Australia's index was 0.2 percent higher.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng Stock Index rose 0.1 percent, or 23.39, to 23,264.67, to 0.626.60.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.6 percent, or 0.8 percent, to 1,040.34, or 11 percent, to 1,040.34, or 11 percent, to 1,040.34, or 11

BUSINESS

Ortigas BPO facility targets to create 3,000 jobs

A joint project of OCLP, Anthem

MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER ANTHEM Solutions Inc. and real estate developer Ortigas and Co. Ltd. Partnership aim to generate 3,000 new jobs through the Silver City facility in Pasig.

The 22,000-square-meter building, located within Ortigas' dedicated and accredited by the Philippine Economic Zone Authority as a special zone, can house 1,500 call center seats and can provide employment for some 3,000 people.

"As a corporate citizen, we look forward to helping boost the economy by providing world-class facilities that will attract [business process outsourcing] companies to set up offices in the Philippines that will, in turn, provide more job opportunities to Filipinos," OCLP chief operating officer Ben Delos Reyes said in a statement.

OCLP established Silver City in partnership with Anthem, which specialized in facilitating the entry and expansion of BPO firms in the country.

Silver City is now fully operational and leased to capacity and should soon serve as base for 3,000 BPO personnel.

"Having the most respected real estate developer and property managers as a partner leverages our business in introducing BPO companies to the country and also gives our clients BPO appropriate facilities available in Manila," Anthem chief executive Miguel Uanzo said.

Apart from Silver City, the other joint projects of OCLP and Anthem are the One Ortigas Building within the Ortigas Center and the Greenhills Shopping Center Mall in San Juan.

Anthem was also part of the establishment of other Peza-accredited buildings such as the One World Square on McKinley Hill and the Net Legend within the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig, as well as the Araneta Mall in Cubao.

An offshoot of systems integration and technology solutions provider Diversified Technology Solutions Inc., Anthem provides managed facilities and managed services to its BPO clients, enabling these companies' entry into the country.

Anthem's managed information technology services range from network administration to desk-side support, allowing its clients to just focus their resources on running their core businesses. —Abigail L. Kit

Group of Asean exchanges takes in new member

FIVE ASEAN EXCHANGES—PERMA Malaysia, the Indonesia Stock Exchange, the Philippine Stock Exchange, Singapore Exchange Limited (SGX) and the Stock Exchange of Thailand—have entered into an Activation Agreement with the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

The agreement, which was reached during the 9th Asean Exchanges CEOs Meeting yesterday in Kuala Lumpur, will include the Shenzhen bourse in the regional pact that will explore cross-border trading among Asean capital markets via an electronic gateway.

This followed a memorandum of understanding signed in Bangkok by the original five exchanges in February this year. The regional cooperation, which is considering electronic link among participating markets via a single access point, aims to assist the Asean region to upgrade its capital markets in order to stay competitive.

It also aims to establish an Asean Bulletin Board that will display market data of participating exchanges and enable each exchange to feature stocks from its respective market.

According to Bursa Malaysia's chief executive officer, Datuk Yusli Mohamed Yusoff, the inclusion of the Shenzhen Stock Exchange in the regional alliance further affirms the prospect and viability of this initiative.

MOTORING

E-mail: jc_motoring@inquirer.com.ph

Edited by Cesar G. Mangaoang

MICHELE and Mark will be the first Filipino siblings in motorsports history at this level of racing.

FIRST IN US-RP RACE HISTORY

Pinoy siblings to compete in North American 2010 race

By Tess R. Salazar

MICHELE Bumgarner's motorsports career goal is to race the Indy Lights in 2010 and 2011, then graduate to Indy Car racing in 2012 and/or Formula 1.

MARK Bumgarner is a karter for 11 years at various levels and locations, grabbing the checkered flag on many occasions.

THEY WERE BORN and raised here. They studied here. They earned their "racing chops" here. So don't let their surnames lead you to think they're not one of ours.

For those who had been keeping following the local motorsports circles in the early part of the new millennium, the names Michele and Mark Bumgarner won't ring a bell. For over a decade, these two siblings landed it over the karting circuits (Michele for 16 years, Mark for 11).

After earning their high school diplomas from Oil Montessori, Bicol and later Ateneo, Michele and Mark hit the road, raced and won in several Asian and European circuits.

With a solid foundation in karting and several circuit races, the siblings eyed the Indy Lite racing series. Michele went to Indianapolis in 2007 and Mark followed in 2008.

In 2010, Philippine motorsports history will make that jump into Indianapolis when the first Filipino racers—and siblings at that—will compete with all the rest of the racing personals in the Firestone Indy Light Series (FILS).

Proudly Pinoys

The Bumgarners will make it known in that part of the racing world that they are proudly Pinoys. They will carry the RP flag in their race cars and suits, and will register in the series as Filipinos.

The FILS is the learning series...the training ground...for the Indy Racing League (IRL) and is set up to help young

START B2-2

Subaru's winning formula

By Charles E. Bebas

THIS WRITER likes Subarus because they've been a fan of some creative technology—like using a LED equipped flashlight, a carbon fiber bike frame, an iPod touch (the most advanced, the better!).

So when it comes to cars, this writer gets a little more excited—and feels more at ease—when driving one that is fitted with systems that promote relaxed driving and help its driver bring a revised situation under control should it encounter.

But while cars equipped with automatic transmissions always frustrate due to their ability to keep drivers from making an incorrect choice of gear, relieve them the burden of shifting almost every second during bumper-to-bumper traffic, the fact is, those that use stick shifts are still regarded as ideal.

Enjoy the thrill

"While there will be times when you definitely appreciate all those automatics. There will also be times when you just simply want to enjoy the thrill that comes with driving a car," said Autoline Areas of Motor Image Philippine Inc.

And that was what this writer found out when the marketing manager of the country's exclusive distributor of the Subaru brand lent an Impreza 2.0R, the 2-liter, five-speed, manual variant of their top-selling compact high-performance hatch.

Unlike its electronically controlled 4-speed SportShift brethren, the Impreza 2.0R before the new one would like it to, thatcher the throttle and it behaves like a rabid unmoored beagle but once you get more assertive behind the wheel, you will definitely feel the satisfying deep-throated growl of its 148-horsepower horizontally opposed engine kicking in.

SUBARU Impreza
Best appreciated in manual version

Handed over

But like most modern cars, the Impreza 2.0R won't hand over just about everything to the driver. For the past several years, Subaru technicians and engineers have handed over a number of car controls from the driver to the drivers, all in the spirit of enhancing yet safe driving.

"For cars a few generations earlier, it was up to the driver's skills and intuition to make the necessary adjustments to the steering, brakes and throttle to maintain control and avoid accidents," Dr. Jones said.

He further explained that the foundation of every Subaru is the Symmetrical All-Wheel Driving System.

"Subaru has been the industry leader in this safety technology since it introduced the first four-wheel-drive passenger cars over 30 years ago. It perfected a system that includes Subaru's boxer engine and a well-balanced, full-time power distribution system with a low center of gravity for exceptional handling precision," he said.

THE FIVE-SPEED manual variant gets the right balance between technology and driver's skills.

Full control

An Autocruise's chauvinistic antilock braking system (ABS) with electronic brakeforce distribution and brake assist will ensure that no matter how hard you slam the brakes, you will still have full control of the vehicle's steering to get you out of the danger zone as safely as possible.

This writer actually got a chance to drive the Impreza 2.0R sharp twin-seated as well as pebble- and not-always-smooth (the continuous rain brought about those road obstacles) where these systems showed their world class. Found myself driving way faster than I would in most other cars, and with total confidence.

Indeed, Subaru has created such a winning formula in the Impreza that it is one of very few automotive brands to pass impressive color increase this year.

In these tough economic times the value of a functional, practical car should keep pulling Filipinos car buyers into the showrooms.

Like a good rain jacket or a trusty umbrella, the F1 1-stitch Impreza 2.0R would be an excellent companion for those who would rather brave the elements and still enjoy a very pleasant drive.

FIRST IN US-RP RACE HISTORY

Pinoy siblings to compete in North American 2010 race

MARK'S focus on open-wheel car racing in North America (featuring cars in the Skip Barber Series) should bring him to the doorstep of Indy Car or Formula 1 glory in 3 or 4 years

MICHELE open-wheel car racing aspirations include Formula Toyota, Formula BMW, F3 and Star Mazda.

BY DAVE, Jury Mun will be qualified for the Skip 100 this month's exciting weekend. Mark and Michele will have to defeat the rigidest top [illegible] to date—with their cars in the F3 series body lights for the Leonard Street race.

The safest Volvo is sexy

IT'S A UNIVERSALLY ACCEPTED GIVEN that Volvo makes some of the safest cars in the world. So when this Swedish car manufacturer introduces a new product

ELEVATED. sporty exterior, muscular flanks

VOLVO XC60: making safety sexy

XC60 D5 | 2.4 liter, 5-cylinder turbodiesel engine

THE ELEGANT driver-oriented interior

as the sleek and most beautiful Volvo ever, it is an earth-shaking statement: sexy, to say the least.

Volvo aims to make safety sexy with the 2009 XC60, a sleekly flowing, sensuous crossover that has created the luxury compact SUV segment here like they brought down from the BMW X3, Mercedes-Benz GLK and Lexus RX 350 (the Audi Q5 is not here yet). Two XC60 variants are available: the 3.0-liter, six-in-line gasoline T6 (P3,050,000) and the 2.4-liter, 5-cylinder turbo diesel D5 (P3,295,000).

Shorter and lower than the XC90, the XC60 exudes the cool sophistication of modern, harmonious Scandinavian design. Its 4x crossover flanks, 9.1-inch ground clearance and short overhangs lend it a bolder, sportier stylishness that should appeal to younger buyers more than the traditional Volvo cross-country owners.

Sporty dynamic

The driver-oriented cabin's sporty dynamic complements the exterior design with sensitive, logical controls that don't require a degree in mechanical engineering to master. The instruments and floating center console are conveniently angled toward the driver. The door trims have an elegant metal pattern that includes the door pull. But none of the thin A-pillars, stubbily looking cut it comfortable. Legroom and head room front and rear is decent and build quality is impeccable.

The MY2010, vehicle I drove over a recent weekend, produces 185 ps and 400 Nm max torque. It has a 5-speed automatic transmission and sequential customer-tailored drive (SMTA) using a traction coupling. Plus, of course, an extensive repertoire of protective and preventive safety features that work together such as front and side airbags, inflatable curtain, radar sensor, Dynamic Stability and Traction Control, Roll Stability Control, Hill Descent Control, Pre-prepared Brakes, Active Bending Lights, built-in Side Impact Protection System (SIPS) WHIPS (Whiplash Protection System) grained leather seats, 4SR leaders with Hydraulic Brake Assist and park sensors.

Volvo claims that the XC60 is the safest Volvo ever since it brings together all the safety knowledge they have built up over 80 years. What's more, the XC60 inaugurates Volvo's latest preventive safety innovation, the City Safety system that uses an infrared laser mounted in front of the rear-view mirror to detect a vehicle six meters in front of the car. If the XC60 approaches at speeds below 30 kph a slowing or stationary vehicle and senses determine that the driver is distracted or failing to brake, City Safety will apply the brakes automatically to avoid a collision or to at least mitigate the impact.

Volvo developed City Safety when studies indicated that 19 percent of rear-end collisions are due to driver distraction (such as when the driver is using his/her cell phone!) and 75 percent of all collisions occur in traffic moving at 30 kph or slower. The system can be shut off manually and is overridden when pressing the gas pedal. In other words, if the driver rapidly lowers the steering wheel or steps quickly on the accelerator pedal, it does not react to objects smaller than cars, such as reflectors or pedestrians, nor to approaching vehicles – only those parked or moving in the same direction.

Different

City Safety has a different system from Volvo's Collision Warning with Brake, which uses a radar located behind the front grille together with a camera fixed inside the windshield and operates within a range of 150 meters. The radar sensor continuously monitors the distance to the vehicle in front to provide information for Distance Alert and Collision Warning with Auto Brake which, when activated, flashes a warning light and sounds an alarm. In case the Collision Warning activates during a slow speed (<30 kph or less) situation, City Safety will react faster, abruptly applying the brakes.

As for performance, handling is good despite some turbo lag and the XC60's pretty weight (18 tons). Top speed for the D5 is 200 kph and it zips from 0 to 100 kph in 9.9 seconds while fuel efficiency hovers between 8 and 9 liters per 100 km. (The T6 gasoline variant, of course, should be faster, nimble and thirstier.) Whatever the variant, the XC60's ride is firm and supple rather than soft. While the AWD system provides grip on gravel roads as well as on paved, the car-based XC60 was not designed for challenging terrain.

Bottom line, the XC60 10 offers supreme safety technology, solid build quality, a very attractive, functionally elegant cabin, refined economy and first-class riding comfort.

Toyota improves IMV lineup

TOYOTA MOTOR PHILIPPINES CORP., the country's leading automotive company, is set to introduce the improved lineup of its International Innovative Multipurpose Vehicles (IMV). This is composed of the Hilux pick-up truck, Fortuner compact sport utility vehicle (SUV), and Innova multipurpose vehicle (MPV). Toyota's improvement of the IMV aims to further strengthen the company's No. 1 position in the commercial-vehicle segment.

The country's top-selling commercial vehicle, the Innova, offers more convenience with an automatic up/down Power Driver Window for grades E, G, and V. On the other hand, the base J variant now comes with a driver's side bag and a 4-spoke steering wheel. Now available are more colors to choose from—Innova mica metallic for the G and V grades and jade green metallic for the E and G grades.

TOYOTA Hilux

The Hilux, the country's highest-selling pickup, enhances its current lineup with improvements for the G, E, and J variants. The 4x4 and 4x2 G grades both now have Smart Entry, Up/Down Power Driver Windows and 16" wheels.

The 4x2 E grade now has better dimensions and boasts of a tougher look with a taller frame, similar to the beefiness of the 4x4 G grade. This is further complemented by its automatic Up/Down Power Driver Window, 16" wheels, driver's airbag, seatbelt warning, 4-spoke steering wheel, power door locks, and front fog lamps. The 4x2 J improves safety with driver's airbag and seatbelt warning system.

TOYOTA Innova

The new Fortuner's comfort is ensured with its Double Wishbone Front Suspension System. Convenience is also guaranteed with an Automatic Up/Down Power Driver Window for all variants. The 2.5 4x4 V Diesel grade, with Automatic Transmission, also comes with a 6-Way Power Driver's Seat and Power Retractable Windows. A new variant, the 2.5 G Diesel with manual transmission, is now offered for more options.

TOYOTA Fortuner

Goodyear responds to evolving consumer needs with Excellence

GOODYEAR PHILIPPINES RECENTLY introduced Goodyear EfficientGrip, the leading tire manufacturer's latest offering for high-performance luxury passenger cars that responds to the consumers' need for performance, control and comfort.

Goodyear EfficientGrip showcases a unique asymmetric tread design that incorporates the breakthrough 3-Zone Technology, providing superior comfort and precise handling in both wet and dry conditions for premium car drivers.

Goodyear EfficientGrip is an evolutionary tire that allows for, supports handling performance and exceptional feeling of comfort.

"In the Philippines, imperfections on the road and unpredictable weather result in stressful driving for motorists and fleet vehicles. The 3 Zone Technology is a result of our in-depth market research that indicated our consumers' desire for security, handling and comfort. It is this technology that allows us to address all these needs," explained Ramon Bermudez, Goodyear Philippines' marketing director.

3-Zone Technology

The Goodyear EfficientGrip features the superior 3-Zone Technology that targets a different benefit for each section of the tire.

In the face of wet and extremely slippery conditions the Security Zone features the Aquatic Safety Technology with highly inclined tread blocks and wide circumferential grooves that effectively push water away from the tread surface for a more responsive wet braking and handling. The Silica tread compound, coupled with a unique blend of high performance polymers and reinforcing fillers, allows for more secure grip in wet and dry conditions while, at the same time, delivers ecological and fuel-saving performance as it reduces rolling resistance.

The tire entrance is put under tremendous pressure during turning and braking maneuvers. The solid, inner rigid outside shoulder tread elements in the Handling Zone hold their shape, guaranteeing sensitive steering response as well as confidence always as emergency reserves and braking situations.

Comfort Zone

Imperfections in the road-ways can be transmitted as noise and vibration into the vehicle. The Comfort Zone is a cushion of rubber that translates drivers and passengers from noise, bumps and vibrations for a smooth, quiet and comfortable ride. This tire cushs bigh, especially in cornering because it has a soft but rubber for premium vehicles that glide along effortlessly at any speed.

"Goodyear consistently invests in technology that responds to consumers' driving needs. We are committed to putting the latest and most advanced technology in our tires to make drivers more confident on the road and ensure that their journey would be a much secure and comfortable one. Goodyear EfficientGrip provides undisputed advantages in wet performance for assured safety and a crisp dry handling performance for high performance luxury vehicles' requirements while providing good ride comfort and comfort," Bermudez added.

Goodyear EfficientGrip available in the market are 195/65R15 EfficientGrip 91H RBD or TL, 205/65R15 EfficientGrip 94V TL, 205/55R16 EfficientGrip 91V TL, 205/55R16 EfficientGrip 94V TL, 215/60R16 EfficientGrip 99H TL, 225/55R16 EfficientGrip 95W TL and 205/50R17 EfficientGrip 93V TL.

My Grand Drive with the Grand Livina

My first big car. Just technically not mine yet and technically not big. Eager to mobilize my own business. I turned downpayment from Dad with a promise to boil the roll for the monthly installments thereafter. The quest now was to find a car big enough for my likely merchandise but stylish enough to drive around town in.

And there it was, sitting pretty in a showroom along Roxas Ave. It twirled in circles. She was going to be mine. Having had a taste of bigger cars in college with the van rented by the family business, I was used to lumbering around the city to obtain merchandises. But I vowed that my trusty drive/mover to be both utilitarian and the rest also! The Nissan Grand Livina in its Silver Grey hue caught me off guard.

Driven seats, ample room at the back, at last a little more than what I'm used to but acceptable nonetheless. Dicked as it might sound you could say this car fit me like a glove, a stylish one at that.

As an added treat I got the Grand Livina with a premium GPS. What's a girl to do, I cleared my schedule, picked up my friends and headed up North to check out the latest trends in the country's Summer capital.

Upon taking the wheel of the Grand Livina, I immediately felt its comfort, this was not an MPV. The steering was light but still responsive, even the acceleration was no dread. It was easy to get comfortable at the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway. Mind you there were six of us in the car. The thing with I noticed with Nissan cars is that they are floaty, like riding on clouds. Comfort ensures you from the noise and harshness of the outside world.

Inside was just as comfortable. You can really feel the quality of the materials around you. It has the large interior shade of their much more cozy. The texture and tones of Mercury Highway were a breeze. It was so easy to drive and I could see all around me. The huge windows provide ample view of the car and the surroundings even at night. Plus the frameless actually work, it illuminates the front of the car nicely as well, we were enjoying the fog all the way to the top.

Growing around Baguio was just as fun. The car is easy to maneuver and park, we got to and out of the slopes in a jiffy. Luggage space was no problem, even with friends full I could easily fold the rear seats to have more space.

The whole experience was just awesome! It's territory already. I felt like I was in a sedan, a modern powerful sedan that can carry all my load, all my friends and still leave room for more.

Green cars featured at Frankfurt Motor Show

PARIS—CARMAKERS, strung by recession and unsure of their future as government support wanes, will put on a brave face at next week's Frankfurt Motor Show, promising the green technologies they hope will be their salvation.

Analysts expect spirits to be a little higher than at last year's Detroit show, with signs of recovery after a brutal slump, and General Motor's decision to sell control of its European unit Opel to Magna providing some clarity after months of upheaval and uncertainty.

"Even if all the problems are not solved, I think morale will be a bit higher," said Ferdinand Gonzalez analyst Philippe Bacro. "Companies have adapted, they've cut production a lot...perhaps we've passed the low point."

Renault and Nissan Chief Executive Carlos Ghosn said this week the financial crisis was over, and predicted the beginnings of a recovery in Europe from the end of 2010.

BENTLEY Vitesse Base

Bolstered sales

Government scrapping incentive schemes...adversely affects car dash bonuses to cajole in old models for newer, greener cars—have bolstered sales in major markets worldwide.

Positive signals in emerging markets are helping too with India reporting a seventh straight month of car sales growth in August. In the same month France, which had been tipped to overtake Germany as Europe's largest car market this year until the crisis hit, showed its steadiest fall on four months, at just a 3.4 percent drop.

"Despite are hoping we're coming out of the crisis but everyone's still nervous and very much focused on the short-term," said Credit Suisse analyst Imad Pirahoui.

Industry watchers will be on the lookout at the show for signs of further consolidation following the Opel deal, an agreement between China's Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Co. and Sweden's Koenigsegg to buy GM unit Saab, and Tesla Automotive's bid for Ford's Volvo.

"My hope—which I suspect will be dashed—is that we see some announcement in terms of alliances. In terms of the amount of money being spent on technology, it makes sense for companies to work more closely together," said Siamou Tournissial analyst Michael Tyndall. He mentioned Daimler and Renault and BMW and Peugeot as two sets of likely candidates for closer ties.

Incentive schemes

But carmakers are worried about what will happen when the scrapping incentive schemes brought in to help fling carmakers, which have fuelled sales dramatically in some markets, come to an end. They want the schemes to be phased out gradually to avoid a second sales crash.

In Germany, Europe's biggest car market, where registrations leapt 28 percent in August, an incentive scheme that paid drivers 2,500 euros to scrap their old cars has now run out, whereas France has promised to keep its scheme running into 2011.

"I still have grave concerns about what happens in 2010—I think people have underestimated the impact of scrapping incentives on the natural level of demand," said Tyndall.

IHS Global Insight's Urquhart agreed. "I think we're going to see a lot of pain coming into 2010 when they're finally with drawn."

Amid a reduced turnout at the show, with some major carmakers like Japan's Nissan absent altogether or Opel's future offering—the new Astra—still be one of the main draws aiming the cars being unveiled for the first time.

"The big one is the new Opel Astra...with Opel in the state it's in, what it needs more than anything else is successful new cars," said Tyndall.

Real stars of the show

But as carmakers get ready to meet tough new targets to cut emissions from their fleets, the real stars of the show will be green technologies, Urquhart said. "There'll be a big emphasis on electric cars and hybrids." France's Renault will show four new electric concept cars, while Hyundai Motor Co. will unveil its in Mexico hybrid concept car and its i-3 electric car.

And carmakers—like BMW, which will show its 'Vision' concept for a hybrid supercar—previously known for their sports or premium credentials are trying to reposition themselves as green brands. "I think making green sexy is going to be a big issue," Urquhart said. *Reuters*

Bentley sees signs of revival in luxury car class

SAN FRANCISCO—British carmaker Bentley, owned by Volkswagen, is seeing some signs of revival in the super luxury vehicle segment and expects sales of premium cars to improve next year, one of its top executives said on Friday.

"We can see some movement. There is some activity going on," said Christophe Dessigny, chief operating officer of the Americas division.

"We expect the last part of this year to be a little better," he added. "2010 should be the start of a new business cycle."

Georgiev, who spoke on the sidelines of a media event, was in San Francisco to reveal the iconic British manufacturer's new flagship model Mulsanne. The new sedan will replace the Arnage, which starts at about $285,000.

For the super-wealthy

The Mulsanne, aimed at the super-wealthy, will go on sale in Europe next summer and will make its debut in the US market in third quarter of 2010. It will also be displayed at the Frankfurt Motor Show next week.

Georgiev declined to reveal the price of the Mulsanne. The least expensive Bentley, the Continental Flying Spur model, starts at $191,300.

Based in Crewe, England, Bentley is also getting ready to launch a sports car. The Continental Supersports can run on ethanol and accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 3.7 seconds.

Super-luxury carmakers, typically insulate in the boom and bust cycles that affect their mass-market counterparts, were hurt in the past year by the fallout from the credit crisis and the economic slowdown.

The world by-demand luxury cars during the recession as they saw their car worth decline following the collapse in financial markets and real estate values.

Bentley's US sales are down 37 percent to 803 units through August this year.

Immune to recession

"Luxury has a reputation for being immune to recession," Georgiev said. "The (economic) crisis has severely affected the overall luxury market." Bentley has seen customers pay off purchases for hand-made vehicles that take an average of nine weeks to build.

"Customers are there but they have postponed their purchases because of lack of confidence," Georgiev said.

So far this year, US sales of "super luxury" cars—models from Bentley Lamborghini, Rolls Royce and Maybach—are down 53 percent, according to industry tracking service IntroData.

The segment has underperformed the overall US car market, which was down 28 percent.

The overall luxury segment, which includes Lexus, BMW and others, was down 32 percent through August this year. *Reuters*

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LIFESTYLE Parenting

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FEDERAL LAND

The special child as a special blessing

By Serena C. Burgos

A FEW HOURS AFTER MALU TIONGSON-Ortiz gave birth to Clarissa in 1987, a pediatrician told her that the child had Down Syndrome. Her physical features such as low-set and deformed ears, slanted eyes, small nose, low nasal bridge and straight crease on her palm, all pointed to such a conclusion, the doctor said.

Down Syndrome, also called Trisomy 21, is a condition in which extra genetic material causes delays in the way a child develops, both mentally and physically. The condition was discovered by Dr. John Langdon Down, after whom it has been named.

Ortiz wished the doctor was mistaken. "I questioned God over and over. Why me, Lord? What have I done to deserve this?" She then asked a doctor to do a karyotype test on Clarissa. A week later, the results confirmed Clarissa's condition. "It was a relief in a way because I realized I had to start somewhere," Ortiz says.

Ortiz says strongly believes. "God had a purpose for her in our lives."

The youngest in a brood of three, Clarissa, 22, is mild-mannered. She was supposed to have moderate to severe mental retardation due to her inability to hear. Her left ear is severely to profoundly dead, while her right ear is moderately to severely dead. She is unable to speak.

She was also born with a left leg that is two inches shorter than her right leg, causing her hip to heal askew.

Despite Clarissa's condition, her mother has learned many lessons from her. "While I was teaching her ABC's and 123's, she was teaching me the greater things in life—unconditional love, patience, perseverance, contentment and simplicity," Ortiz says. "Because of her, I was drawn closer to God. She is one of God's greatest gifts to our family."

MALU Tiongson-Ortiz and daughter Clarissa

Homeschooling

After Clarissa finished Special Education, she started homeschooling in 2005. "She progressed a lot. She's exposed to normal and special kids of all ages. The normal kids, in turn, learn how to deal with special children. It works both ways," Ortiz says. "Through homeschooling, I discovered her talent in visual arts."

Clarissa's subjects are her mother, father and two brothers, Carlo, 25, who's working for a car company, and Paulo, 23, a law student. "Learning has been her way of communicating with us," Ortiz says.

Her cul parents denounce people with big ears and open mouths. "That's her way of expressing she can't speak or hear," Ortiz says.

On Oct. 16, Clarissa will hold her third exhibit at Todman Colleges at The Fort, Taguig. Her other shows were held at Shangri-La Mall and in Baguio City.

Ryan Jungcapo, "scrapbooking," independent living and "more adult" activities like going to the grocery are now part of Clarissa's homeschooling. But when she loves most are watching concerts and plays, aerobics, ballroom dancing and walking in the park.

For Ortiz, homeschooling is an investment for Clarissa's future. "We surely do not want to spend the rest of our lives with an ill-mannered, self-

Malu Tiongson-Ortiz's book, 'Embracing God's Purpose for My Special Child,' shows that the first step in proper parenting is to accept your child's special condition

ORTIZ'S book will be launched today at Mall of Asia.

CLARISSA'S portrait of Mom

PORTRAIT of Dad

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Are you an emotional eater?

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Gobaldo

SOME WOMEN WEAR THEIR excess weight as an armor.

As armor against what? More often than not, it is due to some pain locked deep inside one's psyche. Many magazines and weight-loss books will give you TIPS tips on how to lose weight—primarily through a myriad of diets and supposedly proven exercise programs. But the solutions do not delve into the heart of the matter—why did the excess weight happen?

If the cause is some sort of trauma or deep-seated issue that has not been resolved, then no matter the weight loss program, he/she long-term, it will not be effective because the weight will just keep coming back.

In an article on the well-site Psychcentral.net, Margarita Tartakovsky, M.S., says, "For individuals who've experienced a traumatic event, usually some kind of abuse, their weight helps their create a barrier to the outside. For some, weight serves to minimize their looks and sexuality. In today's society, this is in, and if you don't fit the mold, in theory people will pay less attention to you and your body. Some women use their weight as protection against future abuse."

Mary Cabers, director for the New York Center of Eating Disorders, says: "Many survivors of sexual abuse often work to become very fat or very thin in an attempt to render themselves unattractive. In this way, they try to de-sexualize themselves."

I think of Oprah Winfrey when I read that article and how in this day, she continues to struggle with her weight issues due to the trauma she had experienced as a child.

However, a lot of the excess weight that many women gain is primarily a consequence of a long-term pattern of emotional eating. An emotional eater is someone whose emotions are highly charged because they have been through so much, and who would rather numb the feelings of sadness, anger, anxiety and pain by stuffing food.

A study published in the International Journal of Child Abuse and Neglect in September 2008 showed a link between childhood sexual and physical abuse and middle-age obesity and depression in women.

The bottom line is you must first find the courage to recognize that you are an emotional eater before you can even begin to heal from it. Once the issue is brought out, take the necessary steps to rid yourself of your armor.

Shedding

Permanent physical shedding goes hand-in-hand with psychological shedding. The first step toward losing weight and stopping emotional eating begins from within. Here are a few helpful ways to get you off the emotional-eating highway:

1. Seek professional help. Deep-seated personal issues will manifest in your body one way or another. You may need a compassionate counselor or therapist to help you address the issues and point you in the right direction if you cannot see the issues yourself.

2. Find an outlet to express your emotions in a healthy way. Writing, working with your hands, listening to positive activities into your day, and exercise all help to curb those anxious moments.

3. Learn self-soothing coping strategies. Some examples are getting a massage, taking a warm bath, sipping herbal tea, working on hard candy, shopping for plants or flowers, watching a funny movie, looking at pictures of favorite places that you have visited, watching clouds, listening to soothing music or even singing to yourself.

4. Take time to breathe deeply. Natural breathing involves the diaphragm, a large muscle in the abdomen. The belly rises from the navel to the chest. Proper deep breathing: "When you breathe in, your belly should expand. When you breathe out, your belly should fall. Over time, people forget how to breathe this way and instead use their chest and shoulders. This causes short and shallow breaths, which can increase stress and anxiety." Breathing this way also helps clear your mind and distracts you from heading to the fridge.

S. Find a friendly face. A supportive relationship will not be helpful if open, honest communication is not there.

6. Pray for strength. Seek wisdom and discernment as you go through your journey toward healing. Because people are basically flawed and the painful issues are never easy to deal with, one will always need much courage and grace to see the entire process through.

It takes a while to get out of the emotional-eating cycle, and to forgive yourself if you encounter setbacks. Once you have found the courage to do so, and have put in place your support systems and self-soothing strategies, it can be the greatest gift you can give yourself. You may find that it's a mind-liberating experience, when both your heart and soul are finally set free. Plus, you get a healthier body.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com.

SEPT. PIA CAYETANO with young beneficiaries of the "12-Hour Multi-sport Celebration in Memory of Gabriel"

Pia runs to bring smiles to kids with cleft lip and palate

DE SEPT. 19, SEN. PIA CAYETANO is set to run with hundreds of sports enthusiasts and endurance nuts one objective in mind—to literally bring smiles to children with cleft lip and palate (locally called *bingot*) and ease disabilities at the seventh annual "12-Hour Multi-sport Celebration in Memory of Gabriel."

The event will be held 6 a.m.-6 p.m. at the Ayala Alabang Country Club in Muntinlupa City.

In the last seven years since losing her only son, Gabriel Cayetano Beltran, to a rare congenital ailment, the senator has organized the event through the United Synagogue Youth-Philippines which raises funds to support differently abled children and those with life-threatening conditions.

The fundraiser will feature various sports events, including an all-women's triathlon, kids' duathlon, individual running events, group and corporate relay and tricycling relay.

Participants in said events will compete, with donations as registration fee, which will go directly to event beneficiaries.

Two of Cayetano's triathlete friends, Makati Deputy and Lawyer Joey Torres, will raise pledges by completing their respective Ironman (Ironman's current meaning of a 3.8-km swim, 180-km bike and 42-km run for the entire 12-hour duration of the event.

Among this year's main beneficiaries are the Philippine General Hospital's Pediatric Swaroopagical and Craniofacial Operating Unit (PGH-PSCOU) and "Operation Rainbow," a tie-up mission with Australian volunteer doctors who visit the Philippines annually to perform surgery on children with cleft lip and palate.

The highlight of the event will be an exhibition game of table tennis by visually impaired children supported by BMOC.

Visit www.gabrielcayetano.com.

The special...

From page C1

ish, doll-face, unhappy, disabled adult. I may not be with Clarissa all her life so I do not want her to become a burden to her siblings. Homeschooling has made me realize that I am the best teacher for her."

There are numerous benefits for home-schooled children with special needs, Orita adds. "My daughter learned at her own pace and her needs were met properly. She also has the opportunity for successful learning experiences which motivates her to keep on trying when she encounters difficult concepts," she says. "We were able to instill our own personal and spiritual values into our teaching. Our time was flexible and there was no wasted learning time. Intervention was individualized. There was quantity time with our family and less time spent away from home."

Book launch

Orita, an interior designer, has stopped working to be a full-time mom. A board member of the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, she does family and spiritual counseling. At times, she designs projects and teaches art classes with friends Gay Dee and Marian Ong.

Today, Orita's book, "Embracing God's Purpose for My Special Child," will be launched at the Mindex International Book Store in Mall of Asia. Book signing will be on Sept. 19, 3 p.m.

Published by UBP Literacies Inc., the book features Clarissa and other inspirational stories of parents with special children, "biblical parenting," adolescence and sexuality, medical and health issues and planning for special children.

"Special children are like angels sent by God to us for a special mission. Clarissa is God's investment for me and Glen to mold our characters and make us better people. Through her, God taught me to be the mom I never thought I could ever be," Orita says.

For more info on the Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, call Mela Tengco-Lerma at (0917) 8966236, e-mail dsa.inabox@yahoo.com.

LIFESTYLE Home & Entertaining

Streamlined new fashion address

Tippi Ocampo has moved her shop on the 21st floor of Fort Bonifacio to provide clients a real feel of smart designing

By Alex T. Vergara

AFTER ALMOST A DECADE receiving clients in the Forbes Park home with her husband Ito, fashion designer Tippi Ocampo has moved her shop to a new, high-rise unit at The Fort.

Apart from offering them sweeping views of an adjacent golf course, nearby Makati and, beyond it, Manila Bay, the new bedroom suite on the 21st floor of the Fairmont suites Ocampo's comfortable yet girlie style.

This can be seen in her choice of space her French-inspired furniture and accent pieces, including a distressed chandelier in her office and several framed photographs of Parisian scenes in the room-big area her husband took with a phone camera while they were on a European vacation two years ago.

The images and a couple of Ocampo's impressionist pen-and-ink sketches of women dressed in sweeping dresses, she says, give people an idea of "what we do and where we draw our inspirations from."

Ocampo's off-kilter sketches, which she has yet to find places of honor on her walls, are just but a sample of the University of the Philippines Advertising graduate's artworks compiled in a slim, tiny volume dubbed "Sex by the Book."

"My production team still works from our house in Merville," says Ocampo. "But I meet clients and they do most of their fittings here."

Composed of two areas, the suite has become a virtual extension of their home. On a good day it takes a

TOP PHOTOGRAPHERS John Tesoro, Evelyn Uy, Patrick Uy and Philip Santos with Shangri-La Plaza EVP and EVP Lito Pujo (second from right)

PENINSULA Hotel's Mariano Gochitorena and Shangri-La Plaza marketing manager Martine Duatan enjoy Jay Bermudez

KAMIA Dayondon

JAM! Tee, John Tesoro, Alex Van Hagen with class pal Patrick Uy and Jason Magbanua

WE WERE transported to exotic "Bhutan: The Last Shangri-La" through photographs taken by six Filipino photographers.

Mall features exotic Bhutan in exhibit

IT WAS SO EXCITING FOR ME! when I dashed over to Shangri-la Mall to catch features the coronation of the 28th Thunder Dragon King, Jigme, in "Bhutan: The Last Shangri-La."

A patron of culture and the arts, the mall presents a rare happening as it showcases exotic Bhutan, considered the last shangri-la, dahlings. The awesome exhibit features the rich culture of this incredible Himalayan country.

Talented mega photographers, our *palangpas* Patrick Uy, together with Jules Ivanice, Philip Santos and Patrick's wife Evelyn Uy traveled to Bhutan and also attended the three-day coronation celebration of the 28th Druk Gyalpo or "Thunder Dragon King." The 28-year-old Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck is the world's youngest head of state, dahlings. The brilliant Oxford-educated king took over from his father, Jigme Singye, who placed the traditional crown crown on his son's head.

This well-attended exhibit opening was an overwhelming sensory experience as we were treated to the sights and sounds of Bhutan. The photographs tell the story of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck's ascent to the throne and colorful heritage of his country.

A great event, thanks to Shangri-La Plaza.

That PPP's visit to RP

Thailand's mega Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva joined his town for important bilateral talks with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, *palangpas*.

Vejjajiva arrived with an 11-member delegation aboard the Royal Thai Airforce Airbus A319, dahlings.

The 45-year-old Thai PM was met with full honors by Vice admiral Rodimoel Golez of the Philippine Navy and Foreign Sec. Alberto Romulo together with Thai Ambassador Ittidkorat Xinghara Na Ayudhaya, and the well-respected Mme Chantaracheeb, general manager of Thai Airways in the Philippines, among other bombom, *palang-gis*.

Thai ambassador Singhara hosted a private lunch at his North Forbes Park residence for the popular, good-looking and youngest Thai PM and his entourage before going for Rizal Memorial for the official wreath-laying ceremony.

The outspoken British-educated Thai PM checked in at the Imperial Suite of Sofitel Philippine Plaza. There he met Sec. Secretary Aquino to convey condolences, for the church of former President Cory Aquino, on behalf of the Thai people, the local Thai community and Team Thailand. Later, he met President Arroyo to discuss different issues, including the upcoming Asean Summit.

That evening, President Arroyo hosted a black-tie dinner reception at Malacañang Palace with performances by Bayanihan Dance Company and song numbers by Cheridan Bautista and Rachelle Ann Go, which the prime minister thoroughly enjoyed, *palangpas*.

The visit coincided with the 60th anniversary of the Philippines-Thailand diplomatic relations. Vejjajiva had lavished "bad mouthed collaboration and strongest bond between our two nations."

It surely was a short but very fruitful visit, dahlings.

Ryan Singson's birthday

After producing three successful seasons of Barbie and Pops Fernandez, "Seamless Idols" Daniel Ambrosia and Daniel Corsi, and Shaid Digby Scarlets Productions' brilliant, color-smart promoters, popular Ryan Singson, turned a year wiser and hosted a mind-blowing birthday bash at 35 stories on Jupiter Street, Makati, dahlings.

The place was packed with lots of beautiful people who really knew how to party, *palangpas*. The endless flow of drinks had everyone on a roll and they danced like there was no tomorrow.

It was definitely another fearless production for Our King of the Day, Ryan Singson, *palangpas*.

Buffet of Iloilo treats

Intercontinental Manila's iconic Café Ilongo offers a fiesta buffet spread of popular dishes from the province of bustling Iloilo, prepared by mega-yummy team of talented and international seasoned restaurateur-chef Pauline Gutierrez-Hamoning, no less. The buffet will be available Sept. 16-30, lunch and dinner, Monday to Saturday, *palangpas*.

Pauline owns and manages el Drato, Mahi and 101 Lean Steakhouse as well as a catering business in Iloilo. She co-owns Freska Bangga Instituto Restaurant whose menu she created. For a treat or a food adventure for Henry Sytoo and hosts a culinary show on SkyCable twice a week. Her fantastic gastronomic background includes courses at Culinary Institute of America, New York University, and in Singapore for US meat and beef training, *palangpas*.

Feast on fantastic Ilonggo dishes of beef, dahlings, plus the best balisong (native delicacy) which she got from the best balisong maker in Iloilo. Her to-die-for pork cake is certainly worth a try, *palangpas*.

For every group of four with paying adults, a fifth person gets a free buffet meal. For reservations, call 9819000.

TOP PHOTOGRAPHERS John Tesoro, Evelyn Uy, Patrick Uy and Philip Santos with Shangri-La Plaza EVP and EVP Lito Pujo (second from right)

PENINSULA Hotel's Mariano Gochitorena and Shangri-La Plaza marketing manager Martine Duatan enjoy Jay Bermudez

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WE WERE transported to exotic "Bhutan: The Last Shangri-La" through photographs taken by six Filipino photographers.

PAULINE Gutierrez-Hamoning, guest chef for the Bangga Festival at InterCon

ADORABLE na Adrianan

DIANA

Mall features exotic Bhutan in exhibit

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arnaiz

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using YOL Photo Solutions

THE GANG: Patch Sandoval, Fearless Productions president Ryan Singson, Deputy National Security Adviser Cheryl Singson, Embassy's Cic Arambolo, actors Jamie Lee and Ryan Yllana, nightlife prince Eric Cua and Homer Cuson

HERO Barbers, Olivier Lee, Carlo Trillo and Ivan Zabanoth

BRAVE Ys, Ryan Singson and Blake Castro

THAI Airways GM Nirut Chantaraches (center) with plane crew Kanwa Sukpanthein, Engineer Supyo Chom, Boonmeun Kaewmuan and Pornchai Sakpradabh

DENNIS Vejjajiva, Jun Antolin, Nina Bolisa and Bonna Gabriel

WILBERT Lim, Gina Lim and Brian Lim

MIGUEL Gonzales and Vice Admiral Ferdinand Golez escort Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva.

Swipe away the crisis

The best way to get out of the slump is to spend, and Citibank gives you wise reasons to shop and use your credit card

By Irene C. Perez

NOT EVEN THE MOBILE economy dampens the Filipino's love for shopping. And even if Christmas is more than three months away, people are expected to hit the malls, swipe their cards and shop.

"There are no major changes in the shopping habits of the Filipinos in terms of credit card use despite the changes in economy," says Ines Tan, Citibank Philippines cards business director. "Filipinos are people oriented locally. As compared with other Asian countries, Filipinos are yet to catch up on cash-less purchases."

Citibank encourages more Filipino families to sign up for Citibank credit cards, which own some generous offering discounts and freebies in the non-perishable items and instant rewards (tel. 865-9999 or visit www.citibank.com.ph).

Free movie passes

"We had this done in the Philippines because we want to provide quality service to our cardholders," said Sanjiv Vohra, country head and Citi country officer for the Philippines. "We want to give tangible rewards to our clients every time they use their Citi cards. People always go for value for money and best deals."

The three-for-Steel Deals promise would make movie freaks happy. It allows you to get free cinema passes until the end of the month when you shop with your Citicard.

Use your Citicard and get one movie pass for every P1,500 single-receipt purchase.

Stock up two movie passes plus popcorn and drinks with every P7,000 single-receipt purchase, or when you sign up for the Citi One Bill for your utility accounts.

Take your family out to the movies and have three movie passes plus snacks with every P50,000 credit-card bill, or when you avail yourself of the Citi PayLess homeloans plan.

The P150-month movie pass may be used in Ayala Cinemas, Greenwood Cinemas, Robinsons Movieworld and Shang Cineplex. There are cinemas, though, that don't accept the pass on the opening week, so it's best to check first.

Gadgets galore

Every approved Citi credit card until Dec. 17 lets you buy the following items in a 12-month, zero-percent installment plan:

- The entry-level touch screen Samsung Star S5233 cell phone (P715 a month), perfect for teens on the go.
- The sassy Nike Canon Powershot IS15, Canon's first waterproof compact digital camera (P1,058 per month), great for kids who love the beach.
- And the affordable Dell Inspiron M410 laptop (P5,900 a month), for techie-buddies who can't overnight online news, sports and games.

"We chose these items because the manufacturers are known for the quality and these are easy-to-use gadgets fit for the family who wants an upgrade," says Tan as the recent parents-month at Dusit Hotel.

Apply online at www.citibank.com.ph and get P1000 rebate on any of the three gadgets.

Citibank cards come in the following products: Classic, Gold, Platinum, Citi Mercury Drug, Citi Shell, Citi Costasiero, Citi PremierMiles with free frequent-flyer partnership, and Citi Cash Back card that gives cash rebates to loyal subscribers. All are included in the Smart Deal and zero-interest campaigns.

Go for perks and use the Citicard for grocery or holiday shopping with your family and take advantage of the five movie passes and buy-one-get-one free cinemas fit for every family member.

SANJIV Vohra, country head and Citi country officer for the Philippines, and Ines Tan, cards business director for Citibank Philippines

Do-it-yourself

With Antoni Barreto and Marissa Lopa

D.I.Y.

Affordable wall decor

DECAL Extra great accent for empty walls.

ADD AN INTERESTING DIMENSION to plain-colored walls. Be bored interesting wall decals and wallpaper panels available in different patterns and designs at SM Department Store and Ansons.

Decals are great accent for empty walls. We found a silhouette picture of a chair juxtaposed with a modern desk and pretty poodle.

It's an affordable way to fill in blank spaces and you can spread them around a room or group them together. It's an alternative to hanging art on walls. Just relove you get tired of the design, you can easily peel them off.

Wallpaper panels have adhesive backing so they're easy to stick on the wall surface. You can cover the whole surface, do an accent wall or make an interesting composition by applying it in corners.

Go there to your desired thickness and use as borders. Stylize walls inside cabinets or closets, or you can use them on drawer liners.

WALLPAPER panels can be used as borders.

Streamlined new ...

From page B1

room. It's fabulous to get there from Manila.

And not a few of her clients, majority of whom are fusion brides, seem to prefer Oramayo's new address. While she attends to the business' creative side, Ito takes care of finances.

While the receiving area, says Oramayo, is "minimalist," with a single red accent, her office, which also doubles as a fitting room, is decidedly more feminine. They had worked on the project themselves, doing away with an interior designer.

It's a good thing the couple didn't have to knock down walls or repaint entire rooms. In her, they retained the unit's dove gray walls since the neutral shade conformed to Oramayo's "mixed bases."

French chairs

"We found the French chairs on Evangelista Street in Bangkal, Makati, a known area for pre-owned and vintage stuff," she says, behind her distressed metal desk, which was, in fact, the couple's former dining table.

The husband had the table painted in silver gray before having it distressed. A huge, nearly floor-to-ceiling mirror with beveled edges just across the door leading to the receiving area, is framed in wood-toned ceiling cornice.

"The frame holding a smaller mirror behind me used to belong to [illegible]," she adds. "It used to feature a painting by Anita Magsaysay-Ho. They kept the painting and we got the frame."

Apart from those French chairs and surreal closetage in her office, the designer threw a new bee distressed chandelier to the mix. She said the hubby were looking for old crystal pieces in Bangkal, but once they came across them, they looked too old or had a few missing crystal pieces.

They finally settled on a broad-arm one, a glass and oxys tal ensemble, from Home Depot. For the receiving area, the couple went for a "funkier" chandelier with black glass accents from SM Medical Area.

"It looked so spacelikely now," says Oramayo, referring to the chandelier in her office. "We had to distress it a bit by using sponge and some paint."

In many ways, Oramayo's new digs is very much a reflection of her fashion- feminine yet streamlined, fresh yet oozing with a vintage, old-world charm. It doesn't hurt that the view from above is breathtaking.

PART of her office doubles as a fitting room. Vertical hinge mirror is framed in timber cornice.

ORAMAYO'S distressed silver-painted evening table used as the couple's dining table in their Manila home.

ORAMAYO'S office offers a view of the golf course, Makati skyline and, beyond that, Manila Bay.

Panasonic
ideas for life

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Posh amenities abound at Manhattan Heights

Manhattan Garden City is the first and only transit-oriented development that is connected to the LRT1 and MRT3 lines. The whole metro can get closer.

Plans than 20 varied amenities, including this lap pool amidst vibrant tropical landscaping, are planned for Manhattan Heights.

Manhattan Heights is the new phase of Manhattan Garden City, now breathing and thriving as another project of Philippine Integrated Advertising Group.

SM MALL OF ASIA

Mix & Match Key Fashion Finds

Investing in pieces you can mix and match is a valuable fashion tip. Shopping and finding key classic and key trends items allows you to shop in your own closet for months.

On Sept. September 18, 19, 20 and 21, SM Mall of Asia throws its Big Big Sale filled with must-have fashion finds. It's going to be one big spree for all you fashion necessarians.

Anything and everything to fill your closet can be found in MOA's fashion paradise. For crisp clean looks for a day in the office and a night out . Try this basic, structured knee length skirt in grey from Mistiffo. Its shape is made to complement any shape and it's sharp finish is perfect to keep a clean corporate look. Pair it up with a this red gingham button down top from G2000 to make for a business look for those power Mondays. Soften this same skirt for inside office work with a white cotton top with lace detail from Kashieca.

For more casual Fridays go flirty yet still corporate with Forever 21's floral skirt. This trendy mini with black waist belt is brave but still versatile. On days you want to spice up the office space, be creative with this print on print philosophy. Taking the same floral masterpiece, pair it up with your red gingham button down top. This will make for a fun and interesting ensemble on those power work days.

Don't limit yourself. These four priceless pieces are affordable and can be matched with countless basics you may already own. They'll take you beyond work and out into town even on the weekends.

So don't forget to stop by SM MOA's Big Big weekend sale and don't just stick to your black, whites and grays. With the bargain prices, you can find those hero pieces and go beyond just your essentials.

MOA is the ultimate shopaholic's paradise with a wide range of brands and this season's biggest sale, the Big! Big! Sale of Asia from September 18 to 21(mall hours will extend up to 12 MN on September 18 - 20, and 10 PM on September 21). Enjoy up to 70% off on selected items and you can even get a chance to win one of the six Devant 37" Deluxe Series LCD TV! Shop 'til you drop in biggest sale this side of Asia and see for yourself why MOA is a mall like no other!

Extended up to September 21, 2009

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DEVANT

SM MALL OF ASIA
We Never Mall Enough

J.W. Diokno Boulevard, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City 1300 Philippines

Editor Bienvenido G. Yñiguez

ENTERTAINMENT

Marriage as adventure

ONE OF MY FIVE CELEBRITY couples, Cesar Montano and Isabelita Ona, will release a short-to-medium film, "Ang Huling Sayaw," directed by Joel Lamangan, on Sept. 30. Cesar plays a retired dancer who is married to Isabelita's character, a former dancer who is now a housewife. Cesar's character is also a widower with a daughter played by Isabelita's daughter Ria Atayde.

Cesar and Isabelita have been married for 20 years and have been through a lot. Cesar's character in the movie

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MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

GALLERIA

1 WHITEOUT	6 UP (Digital 3D)
2 IN MY LIFE	7 GRUDGE 3
3 SORORITY ROW	8 INDESIRE: IMAGACTVMMA
4 IN MY LIFE	9 FINAL DESTINATION
5 IN MY LIFE	10 KIMMY DORA

ERMITA

1 SORORITY ROW	4 IN MY LIFE
2 WHITEOUT	5 IN MY LIFE
3 IN MY LIFE	6 THE FINAL DESTINATION
	7 KIMMY DORA

METRO EAST

1 IN MY LIFE	5 GRUDGE 3
2 WHITEOUT	6 FINAL DESTINATION
3 SORORITY ROW	7 KIMMY DORA
4 IN MY LIFE	8 IN MY LIFE

NOVALICHES — PIONEER

1 IN MY LIFE	1 IN MY LIFE
2 IN MY LIFE	2 IN MY LIFE
3 KIMMY DORA	3 WHITEOUT
4 WHITEOUT	4 SORORITY ROW

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MOVIEWORLD

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STA. ROSA — LIPA

1 IN MY LIFE	1 IN MY LIFE
2 WHITEOUT	2 IN MY LIFE
3 ONGBAK 3	3 LAND OF THE LOST
4 IN MY LIFE	4 SHORTS

DASMARINAS — IMUS

1 IN MY LIFE	1 IN MY LIFE
2 WHITEOUT	2 WHITEOUT
3 ONGBAK 2	3 ONGBAK 2
4 THE MANAGEMENT / IN MY LIFE	4 IN MY LIFE

STARMILLS

1 IN MY LIFE	4 KIMMY DORA
2 WHITEOUT	5 AND I LOVE YOU SO / ONGBAK 2
3 IN MY LIFE	6 IN MY LIFE

ANGELES — TACLOBAN

1 IN MY LIFE	1 IN MY LIFE
2 WHITEOUT	2 KIMMY DORA
3 ONGBAK 2	3 LAND OF THE LOST / IN MY LIFE
4 IN MY LIFE	

BACOLOD — ILOILO

1 IN MY LIFE	1 IN MY LIFE
2 WHITEOUT	2 WHITEOUT
3 IN MY LIFE	3 IN MY LIFE
4 ONGBAK 2	4 ONGBAK 2
5 THE MANAGEMENT	5 THE MANAGEMENT
6 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER	6 I LOVE YOU BETH COOPER

Watch this movie in Disney Digital 3D at Moviewworld's Bacolod, Iloilo and Manila

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MOVIEWORLD

Mutya in Miss Intercontinental tilt

By Ronnie Rollan

FRESH FROM HER VICTORY IN THE Mutya ng Pilipinas pageant, Jacqueline Salvadora faces an even greater challenge as she competes against 65 beauties in her first international competition.

Jacqueline crowned Mutya ng Pilipinas Tourism on Aug. 15 as the country's representative in the Miss Intercontinental tilt being held in the City of Minsk, Belarus.

The 5ft," 18-year-old, hip-hop dance instructor was the crowd favorite in Mutya, where she represented the Filipino community in Northern Germany. The Filipino-German was also proclaimed Best in Swimsuit in Sabucan Dancour and Aurora Province fun of the Flight.

Jacqueline was supposed to compete in the Malaysia-based Miss Tourism International pageant this December, but since the Miss Intercontinental pageant was based in Germany, the organizers thought that's where Jackie should compete, according to Mutya president Roberto de Venecia.

"I am very excited," Jacqueline told Inquirer Entertainment during a simple send-off party at the Bonsai Leaf Curry House in the Mutya in Dalgan. "I am focusing on staying fit and learning more about Philippine culture."

Indigenous costume

She said she will use the numerous roads of Philippine culture. Blue, and the silver gown she won during the Top 12 parade in Mutya, for the national costume and evening gown segments, respectively. Mutya Salud will make the rest of her wardrobe.

She was slated to represent her motherland's native Cebu in Mutya, but organizers thought it was more appropriate for her to wear the Northern Germany garb.

Jacqueline, who studied Economics at the Berufsakademie Bahnde in Villedermoore, Germany, plans to put her skills to fashion design. She also hopes to try her luck in Philippine show biz.

Jacqueline left for Minsk on Sept. 11, hoping to bag the country's first Miss Intercontinental title and the platinum crown embellished with 720 diamonds and valued at $361,000. It is believed to be the most expensive beauty pageant crown.

HELEN Rutland in "Helen"

50 classics to be . . .

From page E1

Storm," "Moral," "Hamabang Ngani Kalang," "Stanlegi," "Wanted Perdon Mahon," "Tamboonga," "Mi Dios," "Bread," "Nobleblok on City Jail".

"Dyosebel (Grey de Leon original)," "Gantin Kasi Nasa Puso Kayo Eh," "Ibon," "Bondman ng Lobi," "Skit Ko Tanggan" (Grey de Leon), "A Portrait of the Artist as a Filipino," "Salome," "Mendiola Mona," "Tarzan at Gamang Kalabaw," "Hija," "Bilog sa Gitna."

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 12TH CIME EUROPA
2 IN MY LIFE
3 WHITEOUT
4 KIMMYDORA
MANAGEMENT

Watch out for the KOREAN Film Festival

Shangri-la Plaza

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At the Malls

GLORIETTA
Eton Wing, Ayala Malls Heroes Bldg.
Available September 1-30: Greenbelt 3 Level

GREENBELT
Glorietta, Fashion Shows Every Friendly
Available in participating stores, Sept. 16-30

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
The Designer Label Sale - up to 70% off and favorite participating luxury brands!
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AYALA CENTER CEBU
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MARKET! MARKET!
Sports Outlet Sale
September 14-20, Activity Center

BONIFACIO HIGH STREET
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ONSTAGE

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BABY BLUES By JERRY SCOTT

TULOOK By MARK CEU

SEN By DANIEL SHELTON

ATOMO AND WEBOY By VINA GARCELLANO

HOROSCOPE

By FRANCIS DENIS

ARIES (March 21 to April 20). You want more freedom to do what you want, but this week of your are tempted to quit your job or relationship. Don't do anything rash. Wait for this. Only then to know when you're really wrong and when it really is.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20). Parents should be extra vigilant with children who are sick. Because of a short-circuit, they become more susceptible to accidents. Be extra careful in your work. It's about a week like no tomorrow. Really.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20). Relationships with friends and family become strained because someone wants more attention. Someone wants to be bothered to do today?

CANCER (June 21 to July 22). Time to go somewhere you've always wanted to go. Now's the time. Your finances will be sanctified. There are indications you drive into something. It's also good to avoid sharp, flying, cut and blow objects!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22). Something is today with your imagination. Perhaps you need to get out more and be more aware of opportunities that are right in front of you. Don't be afraid to ask the fellow woman.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Either you or someone else wants to have more freedom to a part. Remember, the other person is human, not a robot. Treat them with respect. Your relationship, your partner or does he or she? Be honest!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22). This is not an easy time. Something is bothering you. The fact that you're waiting for the other shoe to drop. Smile! Let an emotional reaction get you in trouble.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21). Time to go somewhere with friends or members of a group might arise today. Quite likely, someone will express a long-held resentment. How about either?

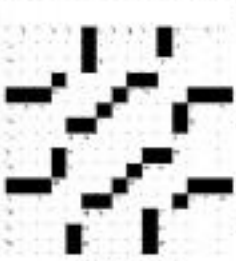
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21). Don't overreact with enemies, bosses, teachers or authority figures today. It's very easy to do this. It could be very costly in the long run.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19). Travel plans might go extremely badly or turbulent. Problems, anything could happen! Higher education could be cancelled or delayed. You might meet someone.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18). Don't walk away from responsibilities about financial property, school, bosses or responsibility for other people's problems. You might be tempted to do this. However, later you might regret it! Chapo.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20). Relationships with partners might take an unfixed you're tempted to walk out. It's best not to do this while you try to work an incredibly confused state of mind. Important decisions require clarity, not knee-jerk reactions.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Taylor

						1	8	
				5		4	7	9
			9	8		3		5
			4	1		5	2	7
		7	5					
3	5	4						
7		3	6					
1			2					
6	9	5	8					

Difficulty Level: ★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	1	2	9	6	3	4	8	7
4	3	9	1	7	8	5	6	2
7	8	6	2	4	5	1	9	3
3	5	1	7	9	4	8	2	6
2	4	8	5	3	6	9	7	1
9	6	7	8	2	1	3	4	5
1	9	4	6	5	2	7	3	8
8	7	5	3	8	9	2	1	4
6	2	3	4	1	7	6	5	9

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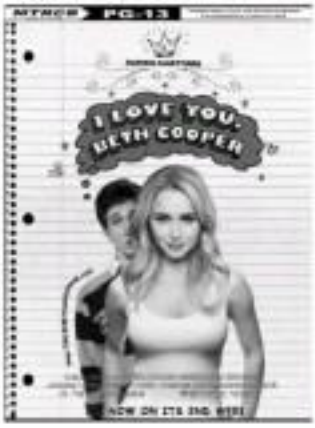
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BRUCE WILLIS
SURROGATES
OPENS FRIDAY, SEPT. 25

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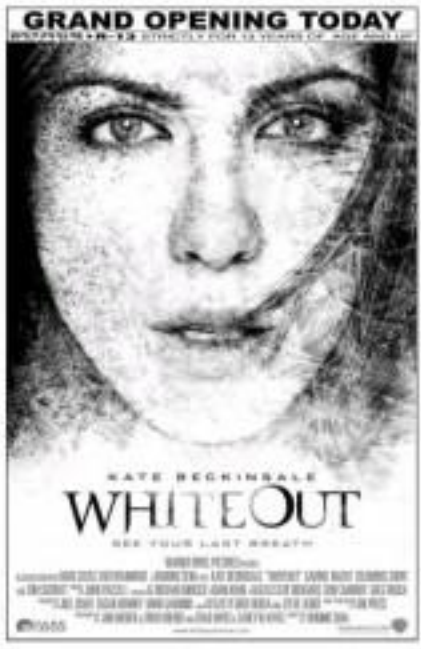
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SEE YOUR LAST BREATH

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Nandito Ako...
Nagmamahal Sa'Yo
IN THEATERS SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

This playboy likes to play with boys, too

LADY Gaga, Best New Artist, 2009 MTV Video Music Awards

By the Entertainment staff

FLASHY ACTOR LIKES TO flaunt his girls. But although he has left behind a string of lovelies (female) hearts, he turns out to be ... bisexual!

A movie says JR could die just as well...and is usually accurate, penned by Gay Manager and Closeted Hook on superheroes all the dead land.

Stephen likes to play pals with boys.

Ghost writer

Network Diva makes filming Eugene Domingo's dragon lady character, look like Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

There's a persistent rumor that Mr. didn't finish college when she should have. Turns out, she clinched the diploma only after forcing a hapless assistant to do her thesis.

Cause of delay

Two big projects hit a snag because Major Producer is throwing its weight around—refusing to lend out its reserves stars.

Movie insider complains that a rival company's planned sequel to their all-time blockbuster Lead Star to an exclusive contract. When LA did the original movie, MP wasn't in the picture yet.

Miss Veteran is similarly incensed that another company's mammoth project may get in the because of MP's delaying tactics.

"But the stars MP doesn't want to lend to other productions aren't busy with any projects," LM quips.

Most Hated Celebrity 2

Controversial Celebrity has become the most hunted personality in the media as well.

After offending Newlywed contestants, CE also irked MC's Good Friend, a member of the wedding party. How? During a dress, CE snubbed a rude joke at EB's expense.

Of wise-cool about it, but EB's spouse saw red and complained to network bosses. CE keep apologizing via text.

To think that CC owes EP big time because of financial and moral support extended during a debilitating personal crisis.

Crunch time

There are fears that "Sing Tanging Bundya: Merry Go Round," the movie top-billed by Joseph Estrada and Al Al de los Reis, wouldn't be finished in time to meet its October playdate.

The project suffered a huge setback with the shelving of Mr. Impostor-y U off the season of Zombeyang. Apart from the death of cameraman Bernardo Bernardo and the loss of vital equipment, the movie's extensive night customer reportedly went down with the ship as well.

A Movie Insider asks: "Can they recreate all those costumes in time?"

Top of the talk shows

Pat Gene who missed last weekend's gabfests on TV (And why we are moved, if we are moved).

● Rufa Mae Quinto on Sin Dickson, who claimed in his Twitter account that the actress was engaged to Mikey Arroyo:

"Never tips ako fiesmenos. Hindi ako papayag na gawin gumamit na lang siya ako pangalan. Ano ba yun?" (30-sec.)

● Mo's message to Bada Mae:

"I really apologize. I feel bad talaga. To the families that were involved. I'll be careful. Imm, you don't get sidetrack galit si akin." (Mmm, hindi kaya nagbackfired? Hmmmm ...)

● Bed Domingo on son Gerjaiy relationship with Dr. Yongzon:

"[Wag na lang ang bahu. s At serious, ha?]

● Jennylyn Mercado, asked if she was really looking forward to seeing Mel Palmanan in jail:

"Syempre nalulungkot siguro ... kahit papaano kasi minsan po or all-in dahil para po nung nanay si Tita Mel, siguro ilang taon ko siyang pinagkakasamahan. Ang pinag-uusapan pa kanina." (Ooops, cold! Advance!)

● Jinkee Medrosito, asked if wedding bells are ringing for her and boyfriend Patrick Meneses:

"Pagka marayo ka or magsuot ang pulgis! wa, you always want the best, I pray to God that he is the one." (Is that a yes?)

● BB. Gandanghari on his re-lationship with his family:

"Hagunda na nang pagsuda ang salaysay ... Binalae ako ng mame ko, at saka ng dalawang dagandal ko. So, una nawawalan-dimas ko na yung acceptance. Dun mas na-nakakasugat kasi ang mama ko, nakapag-girl talk kami. Ayun." (Wow, mame!)

● Jennifer Garcia, asked if she was open to having Marc Jacobs-esque courting her again:

"Magsabi pong mangga para mamili na ti siga ganyan, so mag pag-usa ka talaga." (Is that you?)

● Jean Garcia's reaction to observations that a lot of young actors want to woo her:

"Thank you very much. Are they so long." (Announced? Takers?)

● Jolina Magdangal, admitting her romance with Mark Escalante:

"Nakita ko yung pagka-pare-ho namin sa ng [supervisor ng family at saka yung ugali at kwan pareho. Kasi very important talaga sa akin ang pagiging driving taboo." (Good girl.)

With Gerry Pissa

(Journals, The Buzz, Entertainment Live)

RUSHES

Opening Today

JOSS Jolleven

Mangatyanan

Directed by Jarrold Tarog; stars Che Ramos, Nell Ryan Sese, Irma Adlawan, Ben Medina, Pablo Brosco II, Miles Canapi

A physicoromantic (humor) shoots the crisis of a dying tribe and confronts her wounded past. It was their production design (for Benjamin Padero) in this year's Cinemalaya "for effectively covering the physical and oppositional scenario (of) the real and unreal."

In My Life

Directed by Olivia Lamasan; stars Tilma Santos, John Lloyd Cruz, Luis Manzano, Dimples Romana, Rafael Siguel

Grieving librarian Dimpo travels to New York and meddles in the life of her gay son, Luis (Manzano) and his lover (Cruz). Santos recalls that Lamasan praised the actors to the limit. "She is a perfectionist," Santos explains.

LUIS Manzano and Vilma Santos

Whiteout

Directed by Dominic Sena; stars Kate Beckinsale, Alex O'Loughlin, Gabriel Macht

In a far-flung research station in Antarctica, a US marshall (Beckinsale) must solve grisly murders before severe storm. Claudia Puig of USA Today notes: "The setting can be mesmerizing (but it's) a standard issue thriller." (from Whipp of Los Angeles Times complains: "No event occurs without a character telling us what isn't to occur.")

Sorority Row

Directed by Stewart Hendler; stars Briana Evigan, Danner Willis, Jamie Chung, Leah Pipes, Audrina Patridge

Sorority sisters covering up a fatal prank are hunted down by an unknown murderer. Roger Moore of Orlando Sentinel quips: "It's all cheese, but ... for the most part, (it's cheese that) doesn't stink." (Staci Layne Wilson of Horror.com lauds it for its "dead-on casting ... and outrageous death scenes."

Crossing Over

Directed by Wayne Kramer; stars Harrison Ford, Ashley Judd, Ray Liotta, Sean Penn, Alice Braga, Jim Sturgess

An agent (Ford) and a lawyer (Judd) get involved in the daily struggles of migrants. David Edwards of Daily Mirror thinks it's "as enjoyable as a holiday to Guantanamo Bay." Peter Bradshaw of Guardian calls it "crass, contrived, tackily attacious and preliterally loaded in the most insidious way."

Ashley Judd

Marriage ...

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such a thing happened," she clarifies. "Makes for serious bitat, including her."

How is Jhong as leading man in "Tanay-way to Heaven"? "I love how serious he is about his craft," she says. "I have great respect for him." How else she respect what Jhong and Maxine have? "Of course," she quips. "I'll just do my work as his leading lady."

What's the hardest part of playing Jodi in Gibb 7's Pinoy adaptation of the well-loved Koreanovela? "The tough part is that lots of things in TV don't happen in real life," she says. "The challenge is in finding real emotion in extraordinary circumstances." Pilate stays gorgeous even when intrigues turn outrageous.

Diet's wedding plans

Another cleavage told me that he and his fab GF Elma have wedding plans but that they're not telling the prying newsmen anymore. He's still very much married to his K.I.D.S Foundation. "I'm happy that it's been recognized by the Department of Education for its much with the youth," he says. If and when Diet and Elma get hitched, he still surely make a great dad, after all his practice with his many boundless "babies."

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EXCLUSIVE

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CINEMAS

Explore the allure of the American dream and the reality that immigrants find - and create - in 21st century L.A.

crossing over

"Terrific performances from a first-rate ensemble cast..."

"Engrossing, thoroughly entertaining..."

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